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AN

HISTORIC RECORD AND PICTORIAL DESCRIPTION

OF

THE TOWN OF MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

AND MEN WHO HAVE MADE IT.

FROM EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO CLOSE OF ITS FIRST CENTURY OF INCORPORATION.

A CENTURY OF MERIDEN

"THE SILVER CITY."

ISSUED AS THE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR HISTORY BY AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AT THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, JUNE 10 TO 16, 1906.

COMPILED BY C. BANCROFT GILLESPIE.
EARLY HISTORY BY GEORGE MUNSON CURTIS.

WITH PROFUSE ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT.

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A CENTURY OF MERIDEN

MERIDEN'S EARLY HISTORY.

BY GEORGE MUNSON CURTIS.

CHAPTER I.

ALTHOUGH the history of Meriden as a township certainly does not begin until 1806, the year of its incorporation, still the story of its settlement starts many years previous to that date, at a time when historic Plymouth was only forty-one years old and scarcely twenty-five years had elapsed since the founding of Hartford, while New Haven had little more than attained its majority.

When the white man first began to clear the primeval forests that covered the land now embraced within the territory of Meriden, Wallingford settlement had not even been thought of. It is a fact that the name of the daughter antedates that of the mother town on the colonial records by four years, for as early as 1666 the name of Meriden appears in the lists of the General Court. In all probability, no Indian village was ever located within these borders, and yet the land was claimed as his heritage by three different red men who each in turn sold it to the white man. In fact, the greater part of Meriden was bought of the aboriginal inhabitants five different times. Here the dusky savage came to follow the chase or trap the beaver and many were the hunting parties that roamed these hills and valleys.

All that part of Meriden lying north of Main street was for many years in Hartford county and, in turn, jurisdiction was claimed by the Colonial court, Wethersfield, Farmington, Middletown and Wallingford, and records of very early purchases of real estate must be searched for hither and thither, one can never be sure where. With such an uncertain lineage and such a complexity of jurisdiction it would be strange indeed if some stories of the past could not be gleaned from the early records that will hold the attention of those in whose hearts there lurks an affection for the town where so many of us were born, or have placed our hearth-stones and built our homes. We may not have a continuous town history of unbroken local government, but our homes have been laid in a country of lovely hills and vales, and our eyes are daily confronted by as beautiful a landscape as can be found in Connecticut and those who have not been neglectful of

the beauties that surround us love every inch of her rugged cliffs, brawling brooks, woodland paths and smiling, cultivated meadows, swelling and sinking in ever changing vistas of loveliness.

It will assist one to better understand and appreciate our early annals if, on a bright and clear day in summer, a climb is made to the summit of West Peak, or better still to the grey tower known as Castle Crag, standing on the verge of the dizzy cliff that, like a sentinel, dominates all the landscape to the west of Meriden.

In a vast panorama spreads the valley to the north and south, dotted with ponds, lakes, meadows, woodland and villages, and checked on the east by mountains and crags which distance clothes in a purple haze, half veiling the ruggedness of grim old Lamentation, Higby and Beseck, torn and rent by the storms and frosts of ages. Like a map the country lies below us, for we are more than a thousand feet above the sea. Away in the north gleams the gilded dome of the Capitol in that gentle depression which holds in its lap Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, washed on the east by the waters of the Connecticut and swelling in the west into the wooded slopes of Talcott Mountain, while further south and west the spreading waves of pioneer life extended the colony into the valley of the Farmington river. With a strong glass we even fancy we can see the spire of the old meeting house in Farmington peeping above the green elm trees of the village street; near at hand, lie New Britain, Berlin, Bristol and Southington, all settled by the same movement which drew the pioneers into the lovely Tunxis valley and all for many years parts of the town of Farmington.

On the borders of Berlin and Meriden gleams like a spot of burnished silver a large lake, or pond, now used by a Hartford Company as an ice reservoir, but in those days of long ago, no pond would have met our eyes, but instead a vast morass or swamp alive with beavers and water fowl and curiously called by the old Dutch name of the Fly or Vly. Just south of this pond was cleared the first settlement in the territory of Meriden. Glancing to the east over Meriden and the summit of Lamentation we suspect rather than see the ancient town of Middletown, in those early days called Mattabesett, the seat of the great Sachem Sowheag, from whose son, bearing the euphonious name of Montowese, was bought by the English of New Haven the land extending northward from its bounds up through North Haven and Wallingford as far as where Kensington avenue in Meriden winds to the northwest on its way to New Britain. Just at the foot of the steep side of the most eastern of the parallel ridges close at hand, Cold Spring pours forth its ice cold water, now almost forgotten by a generation which remembers not the attractions of the place before the Cold Spring Home or poorhouse had contaminated it by its depressing association. The fame of Cold Spring was once so great that it lent its name to localize all the territory for at least two miles to the north, east and south.

On the southeast, beyond Wallingford, the range of Lamentation and Beseck Mountains stretches the bold front of its trap-rock cliffs into the town of Branford, known there as Totoket Mountain; while towards the south on the horizon rise the sharp hills known as East and West Rocks and over their summits we catch glimpses of Long Island Sound, indenting the land in a little bay where the Quinnipiac river, winding quietly through this southern valley, finally pours its waters, gathered from the hills and meadows of Bristol, Southington, Meriden, Wallingford and North Haven. New Haven we cannot see, for East Rock, capped by the monument erected in memory of the dead of the Civil war, hides and shelters it from the north.

It is an historic as well as a beautiful panorama on which we are gazing and students and historians have many times told the story of Connecticut and New Haven colonies and it may seem unnecessary to give in these pages even the slightest sketch of this early history, but Meriden's earliest settlement depends so largely on the relations of these two rivals that the attempt will be made to refresh the memory of those who have forgotten.

In 1635 a little band of Englishmen who had but lately arrived from the mother country, began to regret their decision to reside near Boston. Resenting the religious and civil intolerance of the lately settled towns in eastern Massachusetts and longing to found a commonwealth on a more liberal basis, they gathered up their possessions and turned their faces towards the Connecticut river at Hartford. Driving their cattle and herds before them they traversed on foot the long and tedious journey and by 1636 they had founded the three towns of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. Here, under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Hooker, they laid the foundation of constitutional government in this country, for it was in Hartford that was drawn up the first written constitution of which history gives us any record.[1] Hartford was the birthplace of American democracy. These three river towns were the nucleus of the colony of Connecticut and hardly an event in the settlement of America was of more importance than the cornerstone of free government laid by these early pioneers, for here grew up the theory of government "of the people, by the people, for the people,"[2] that American idea of a free and equal government where every freeman in good standing is entitled to the ballot and can register his approval or disapproval of men and measures.

In 1638 another company of Englishmen landed in Boston, the most opulent of any of these early migrations across the sea. Led by the London merchant, Theophilus Eaton and the Rev. John Davenport, they were not satisfied by the conditions they found in the towns around Massachusetts Bay, and, in spite of inducements to settle in the neighborhood where they had landed, they sought for a virgin field where they could establish the religious and political ideas they had

1 Johnston's Conn. Am. Commonwealth series, p. 63.
2 Idem, p. 70

brought with them. They finally decided on the meadows near the mouth of the Quinnipiac river as the place where they could safely try their experiment in civil government. Called at first Quinnipiac, after the tribe of Indians from whom the land was bought, the name was soon changed to New Haven. Other bands of pilgrims soon arrived and Milford, Branford and Guilford were founded and these four towns were soon welded into the colony of New Haven.

The methods of government were very different from those of the colony of Connecticut at the north. In New Haven the Bible was the constitution and no one was entitled to the ballot who was not a church member in good standing. In other words, the colony was governed by what may be called a church oligarchy. It may readily be imagined that the commonwealth with a center at Hartford was speedily to become much more popular than the one located on the Sound. It grew more rapidly in territory and numbers and soon embraced the newly settled towns of Stratford, Saybrook, New London, Farmington, Fairfield and Norwalk, while New Haven never extended its original bounds except to settle and absorb the town of Stamford.

Here, then, were two rival colonies only thirty-six miles apart, but as widely separated as the poles in methods and theories of government. Just half way between was the territory of Meriden, a buffer as it were between two rival pushing bands of land-hungry Englishmen.

Without doubt the oldest highway of any length in the state of Connecticut is the Old Colony road, leading from Hartford to New Haven and still bearing this descriptive name as it passes through Meriden and Wallingford. Probably there was an Indian trail occupying the same general position before the white man's advent, for, according to credible tradition and written records the Indians, although never inhabiting the valley between Lamentation and Hanging Hills, resorted hither from the vicinity of Hartford and New Haven to follow the chase. Although travel between the colonies of Connecticut and New Haven could not have been very frequent during the first few years, still the old records preserve evidences of communication between the two colonies. In 1639 letters from Quinnipiac were demanding the attention of the General Court in Hartford[1] and the same year it was thought best to send to Quinnipiac counsels relative to defense against the Indians and Mr. Webster and Mr. Willis were dispatched on the errand.[2]

A few weeks later Edward Hopkins, of Hartford, set out from that town for Stratford with a drove of cattle and passed through New Haven[3] and afterwards he confesses to frequent journeys over the same road when he writes "I remember with what pleasure he (Gov. Theop. Eaton) would come down the street that

1 Conn. Col. Rec., Vol. I., p. 28.
2 Idem, p. 32.
3 Idem, p. 35.

he might meet me when I came from Hartford unto New Haven."[1] In 1640 word was sent to New Haven of Indian depredations[2] and in 1645 the New Haven court ordered a bridge built over "East River in the way to Connecticott."[3] On September 13, 1649, the Connecticut Court directed Mr. Ludlow and Mr. Taylecoat (Talcott) to ride to New Haven to-morrow to confer with Mr. Eaton relative to the Indians.[4] In 1653 the New Haven court passed the following vote "for hire of horses the owner shall have from New Haven to Connecticote tenn shillings."[5] These extracts show that there must have been more or less communication between the two colonies which grew as the years went by and population increased. Doubtless, Rev. Mr. Hooker, of Hartford, Rev. Mr. Davenport, of New Haven, and Rev. Mr. Whitfield, of Guilford, who had been intimate friends in England, sometimes visited each other to discuss the many problems which vexed them and to devise means to overcome the wiles of the Devil, who in this new country of unbroken wilderness and terrible solitudes was cunningly devising new temptations to draw the souls of the faithful from the straight and narrow way.

Consequently, the country in the vicinity of Meriden soon became familiar to many of the colonists in Hartford and New Haven and other towns. If these ancient worthies had time and inclination to admire the beauties of nature they must have been impressed as they entered the valley between Lamentation Mountain on the east and the gently rising Hanging Hills on the west, which, gradually climbing higher and higher, with here and there great spaces of rock, grey with the frosts of ages, drop precipitously into the plain extending to the Sound. No other place on their weary journey could have compared in beauty and picturesqueness with this little valley. But even the beauty of hill and dale can hardly have repaid them for the hardships endured during the long and weary thirty-six miles which lay between Hartford and New Haven, with hardly a house to break the monotony of the journey. There were only two methods of overcoming this distance: one must travel afoot or on horseback over a path without bridges and with the directions blazed on the trees of the primeval forest.

The necessity for caution in following this road through the wilderness may be judged by the following extract from a letter written by Rev. John Davenport, of New Haven, to Gov. Winthrop at Hartford, dated 6 month, 1660:

"I received a former letter from you by Mr. Bishop who, in his return from your parts hitherward, tooke a wrong path twise and was so bewildered that he lost his way from Wethersfield and lay in the woods in a very cold night and came not to us til the last day of the weeke towards noone."[6]

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1 Mather's Magnalia, Ed. 1820, Vol. I, p. 134.
2 Conn. Col. Rec., Vol. I, p. 58.
3 N. H. Col. Rec., Vol. I, p. 188.
4 Conn. Col. Rec., Vol. I., p. 197.
5 N. H. Col. Rec., Vol. II., p. 3.
6 Mass. His. Soc. Col., 3rd Series, Vol. X, p. 37.

Even as late as 1672 the Governor of New York in his instructions to post riders from that colony to Boston states, "You are principally to apply yourselfe to the Governors especially Governor Winthrop (at Hartford) from whom you shall receive the best directions how to form ye best Poast Road. When you think it requisite you are to marke some Trees that shall direct Passengers the best way."[1] "The Indian paths were good though only two or three feet wide and in many places the savages kept the woods clear from underbrush by burning over large tracts," and doubtless the colonists followed the same method. "Thus the 'blazes' stood out clear and white in the dark shadows of the forests like welcome guide-posts, showing the traveler his way."[2] And yet, always haunting one, like a ghost that will not be exorcised, was the fear of the lurking savage and wild beast; and at any sudden noise there was a tenser strain of the nerves and a tightening grasp of the trusty rifle, that constant "vade mecum" of the sturdy colonist. The Rev. John Davenport, in a letter to Governor Winthrop, dated April 2, 1660, gives us a little story which illustrates the perils of the journey and which for dearth of other material may well be inserted:

"Honored Sir—I received yours by Brother Benham, whom God preserved from being drowned in his journey homeward. The river by Mr. Yale's farm was swollen high; his wife was fearful of riding through it. God provided an help for her at the instant by a passenger who traveled from Windsor to Branford to Mr. Crane's, whose daughter he had married. He helped Sister Benham over a tree. But her husband, adventuring to ride through, a foot of his horse slipped, so he fell into the water, and his horse, as he thinketh, fell upon him or struck him with his foot, for he had a blow on his head. But through the mercy of God he is now well." * * * This was doubtless at the crossing of Pilgrims' Harbor Brook, for no one could cross the Quinnipiac River when swollen, by means of a tree or log.

But they were a brave and undaunted people and notwithstanding the hidden terrors of the wilderness slowly but relentlessly the van of the settlements was constantly advancing, and as the numbers increased the question of a dividing line between the sister governments of Connecticut and New Haven began to attract attention. It is easy to imagine that, when bounds had been described only in deeds from the Indians, drawn up when limits were not considered of moment, accuracy in tracing these bounds would cause much friction. At last New Haven determined to leave no room for doubt as to the extent of her territory, and at a General Court held April 23, 1660, "the Governor desired that the bounds of a p'cel of land towards Connecticote might be sett out for the prevention of future differences that might otherwise arise betwixt us w'ch motion was approved and thereupon it was ordered yt Mr. Yale, Wm. Andrews, John Cowper, John Brock-

1 N. Y. Evening Post, Feb. 18, 1899.
2 Earle's Home Life in Colonial Days, p. 330.

itt, Nathaniel Merriman with the help of Mantowees, an Indian ye late pprietor shall set out the bounds wth lasting marks wch is to be done wth the first convenyence."[1]

It is interesting to note that two of these men were leaders in the settlement of Wallingford ten years later, and probably their first acquaintance with that vicinity was made during their service on the committee to execute this vote of the General Court.

As soon as spring has really come we may in fancy see these men, clad in leathern doublet and breeches, accompanied by the dusky warrior, Montowese, striding along the road leading to "Connecticote," crossing the bridge lately built over the Quinnipiac, and setting their faces towards the north where in the hazy distance can be traced the dim outlines of the Hanging Hills. First, we note the sturdy form of Nathaniel Merriman, a veteran of the Pequot War of 1636 and destined later, as captain of dragoons and accompanied by his son, Nathaniel, Jr., to play his part in the great swamp fort fight of King Philip's War; where, alas! many of the flower of Connecticut's young manhood perished, Nathaniel, Jr., among the rest. Our veteran as he firmly strides along is now in the prime of life; born in 1614, the son of George Merriman of London, who died there in 1656,[2] he early cast his lot among the New Haven planters, and when Wallingford was settled in 1670 he was one of the pioneers and until his death in 1694 was conspicuous and honored in that community. He is still represented among us by worthy and respected descendants.

Next we see Thomas Yale who came to New Haven a youth in charge of Gov. Theophilus Eaton, who had married his widowed mother, the daughter of Thomas Morton, Bishop of Chester, England. He evidently was fond of pioneer life, for when New Haven had grown to be a larger town he settled in North Haven; he also has left many descendants among us who still maintain the prestige of his name. Then comes John Brockett, who also served in King Philip's War; he was frequently employed as a surveyor and many of the early roads in New Haven County were laid out under his direction; after him comes Wm. Andrews who accompanied Gov. Eaton to New Haven at the first settlement and was for many years the keeper of the only inn in that town; and last of all is John Cooper, a prominent man in the community, for many years manager of the iron works and frequently a representative at the General Court.

In December, 1638, Theophilus Eaton and John Davenport had bought of Montowese, the son of the sachem at Middletown, a tract of land ten miles long, lying north of a purchase previously made of an Indian sachem named Momaugin. This purchase was added to by a subsequent deed in 1645 which has been lost. Our committee, intent on carrying out the instructions of the General Court,

1 N. H. Col. Rec., Vol. II, p. 409.
2 N. E. His. and Gen. Reg., Vol. LIII., p. 21.

following the lead of Montowese, pass up the road through what was later Wallingford and over the hill by Walnut Grove cemetery until they come to Pilgrims' Harbor. Here, we fancy, some little time was consumed in crossing the brook where Lyon & Billard's office now stands, and in picking their way through the swamp which formerly made this locality almost impassable. On they went up what is now Colony street until quite to the present junction of that street and Kensington avenue.

As far as this Montowese claimed his domains had extended and here they placed "lasting marks" which would define the boundaries between Connecticut and New Haven colonies. Their work done, doubtless, they leisurely proceeded home, possibly lingering a little while on the hill where the future Wallingford was to lie.

It was not long before the General Court at Hartford had been informed of New Haven's action and although no record of debate or action appears on the minutes, we know that a protest was sent and that the action of New Haven was not suffered to pass without comment or opposition. Rev. Mr. Davenport's letter of October 30th, 1660, to Governor Winthrop was unquestionably an answer to some complaint from Hartford colony and it is well to quote those passages relating to the question in dispute "Concerning the matter of the Indians, I hope Mr. Gilbert hath or will give a clear account." Nor will there be anything done by any of ours to hinder your Indians in theyre hunting. But for the purchase it was made above 20 yeares past without any seeking, on our part, upon an offer made to our Governour & Co. It was of Montoweeze that the land was bought whereby N. H. bounds extended neare unto the Cold Spring beyond Pilgrims Harbour."[1]

This latter throws a flood of light upon the condition, at that time, of the territory now embraced in Meriden. It shows that it had been used by the Indians as a hunting ground and it indicates about where the New Haven committee had placed the "lasting marks." This action of New Haven in accurately marking the bounds between the two colonies was one of the earliest acts in that drama, the closing scene of which was the absorption of New Haven colony by Connecticut in 1665.

The General Court at Hartford apparently did not formally present a protest until 1661. At a General Court held in New Haven May 29, 1661, the following vote was passed: "It was alsoe ordered that a committee be chosen by this court for the treating with and issueing of any seeming differance betwixt Connecticot Colony and this, in reference to the dividing bounds betwixt them and of some seeming right to this jurisdiction which they pretend in a letter sent to this Gen'll Court." The letter in question was from Sec'y Clark of Hartford and read in part

1 Mass. His. Soc. Col., 4th Series, Vol. VII., pp. 517-519.

as follows: "This Court having receaved information not only by what appeares in one of yor Lawes respect; the purchase of land from ye Indians wherein there is a seeminge challeng of very large intrests of lands and likewise by what intelligence we have had of yor strechting yor bounds up towards us by markeing trees on this side Pilgroomes Harbour wch things as ye intrench upon or intrest soe they are not satisfying or contentful,"[1] etc., etc.

Meanwhile Connecticut did not content herself by letter writing only. She was determined to forestall any attempt on the part of New Haven to absorb the territory north of Pilgrims' Harbor. On Aug. 28, 1661, she granted to Jonathan Gilbert, of Hartford, "a farm to ye number of 300 acres of upland and 50 acres of meadow,"[2] which he immediately proceeded to take up, at Cold Spring, in the northern limits of our town, for on May 15, 1662, he is granted permission "to keep an ordinary, or inn, at his house at Cold Spring."[3] And on Oct. 15, 1664, Edward Higbee, of Connecticut, bought of a Hartford Indian the land between Mr. Gilbert's farm called Merideen and Pilgrims Harbour River or Brook.[4] Thus in a somewhat high-handed way Connecticut had secured possession of all the territory of Meriden north of Harbor Brook, notwithstanding that Rev. Mr. Davenport had asserted in 1660 that New Haven had bought the same land of Montowese about 1638.

The rival claims to this territory resulted in an anomalous situation. For many years the land was a part of no township. It formed a sort of buffer between Wallingford and Farmington, although it was a part of Hartford County until some time in the next century. In 1686 the General Court in anticipation of the possible loss of the charter through the action of Sir Edmund Andros (of Charter Oak fame), took such steps as would secure the colony against the future exactions of an arbitrary governor. The court was empowered to dispose of all vacant lands. It granted "to Wethersfield, Middletown and Farmington all those vacant lands between Wallingford bounds and the bounds of those plantations to make a village therein."

It must not be forgotten that when the limits of Wallingford were assigned at its planting in 1670 its northern bounds ended at a line drawn east and west at about where Colony street crosses Harbor Brook. In 1683 Wallingford bought of John Talcott, of Hartford, all the land between this east and west line and Gilbert's farm called Meriden who, in turn, had bought it of Adam Puit, an Indian of Podunk;[5] so that the action of the court in assigning the lands to Wethersfield, Middletown and Farmington was clearly illegal. These lands were for many years called Wallingford Purchase Lands and its anomalous position did not

1 N. H. Col. Rec., Vol. II., p. 409.
2 Conn. Col. Rec., Vol. I., p 372.
3 Idem, p. 382 (and soon called Meriden).
4 Perkins' Historical Sketches of Meriden, p. 104.
5 Idem, p. 105.

cease until it was finally set off to Wallingford about 1728 as a parish by the name of Meriden. It is interesting to note that practically all the land between the Colony street crossing of Harbor Brook and the Belcher, or Meriden, farm was bought of the Indians three separate times; first by New Haven of Montowese in 1638, then of Seaukeet by Edward Higbee in 1664, and lastly by John Talcott of Adam Puit in 1683. There were also two other deeds confirmatory of previous grants.

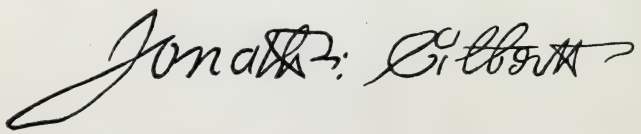


CHAPTER II.

Whether Connecticut's protest sent to New Haven against the action of the latter colony in placing "lasting marks" or bounds in this vicinity was brought about by a belief that the lands in question were commercially valuable or simply by a desire to push back any attempt at further expansion by New Haven, of course we cannot tell. But the action of the General Court in granting a farm of 350 acres to Jonathan Gilbert perhaps shows that the wilderness about Meriden was of value in one way at least. For many years after the colony was settled there was a considerable trade in furs and the immediate locality of Gilbert's farm certainly abounded in beavers and other fur-bearing animals at one time. He built across the river from Hartford a warehouse whence he shipped to Boston furs and other produce of the country. Just north of his farm was the old "Fly" already mentioned. This word is of Dutch origin and is in common use in those parts of New York and New Jersey first settled by the Dutch.[1] The original form of the word was Vly or Vley; then corrupted into Fly[2] and was the Dutch expression for a swamp or morass. From time out of mind the old swamp now named the Peat Works Pond was called The Fly and the Old Fly, and so far as the writer can learn this locality is the only place in Central Connecticut that bears such a name, although the word is sometimes met with in the extreme western part of this state. Are we to believe from this use of the word in Meriden that the locality was known to the Dutch who erected the Good Hope Fort at Hartford before the arrival of the English and that they were in the habit of resorting hither to trap the beaver? Albert Norton, of Berlin, the owner of a large part of the old Meriden Farm, says that when the disastrous attempt was made by the Aetna Peat Works to manufacture marketable peat at the "Fly" many years ago, in several places excavations were made at least fifteen feet in depth and in each instance trunks of trees were frequently found even at the bottom of the holes, so perfectly preserved that they still bore the marks of the teeth of beavers made centuries ago. The Dutch knew Central Connecticut well and one of their early maps indicates the mountains at Meriden as well as East and West Rocks at New Haven which they called Rodenberg (Red Mts).[3] The vote of the General Court of Connecticut which granted to Mr. Gilbert the right to keep an inn at his farm in Meriden reads as follows, under date of May 15, 1662: "This colony grants

1 A point in illustration is the Fly Market in N. Y. City where there was formerly a swamp.
2 Century Dictionary.
3 Narrative and Crit. Hist. of America, Vol.. IV., p. 438.

liberty to ye Marshall Jonathan Gilbert to keep an ordinary at his house at Cold Spring for releiving of travellers according to their needs," showing that, although the farm had been granted to him August 28, 1661, he had already built a house on it the following May, hardly time enough to have erected a stone house which later records show was standing there subsequently. This farm as first laid out was on the west side of Colony road and extended from the laneway just south of the house of Albert Norton in Berlin, southerly to a line a little south of the house now occupied by L. Michaelis, but formerly owned by James Bartlett and known to most Meriden people as the Belcher farm. It was bounded on the east by Colony road and on the west by a stone wall still standing about three thousand feet west of the railroad track and running parallel to it. The old house probably stood between the Michaelis house and that of Mrs. E. H. Yale, a little to the north. As Meriden's settlement originated with this farm it does not seem inappropriate to devote some space to it and to Meriden's first land owner, Mr. Gilbert. The fact that this farm was originally granted to Mr. Gilbert seemed to have been entirely forgotten until Dr. Davis brought the fact to light in his History of Wallingford and Meriden. Dr. Perkins, in his interesting Historical Sketches of Meriden, says:[1] "It appears that one Mr. Belcher very early, but how early we cannot precisely ascertain, had a grant of a large tract of land on our present northern border. Whether this was a colonial grant or a royal grant we do not know for no trace of deed or grant can be found in the state records or town records." This seems even now to be the generally received opinion and yet it is entirely erroneous and it is singular that a man so discriminating and painstaking as Dr. Perkins was should have utterly overlooked records that were in the Capitol at Hartford. The first white man to own land within the present limits of the town of Meriden was Jonathan Gilbert.



(Facsimile of signature taken from his will.)

He was one of the earliest settlers at Hartford and a man of marked influence in that community and at his death left a large estate. At one time he was employed as interpreter in negotiations by the colonial government with the Indians, indicating that he had mixed much with the savages. His profession was that of inn keeper at Hartford, a position at that time of much respectability. He was also marshal of the colony and frequently a member of the General Court. He was engaged also in the fur trade with Boston, as already mentioned. The produce

1 Page 13.

of the country he sold was carried in the ships of his son-in-law, Andrew Belcher. In all his undertakings he appears to have been a man of energy and push. Mr. Gilbert died December 10, 1682. Some idea of his wealth may be gained by noting that his inventory among other things contained two gold rings, gold shoe buckles, gold toothpicks, gold shirt buttons and one hundred and forty ounces of plate. His house in Hartford was a large and commodious one and his total inventory amounted to £2484-17-9—a large fortune for those days. After Mr. Gilbert had acquired his farm at Cold Spring he put in charge of it, apparently, Edward Higbee, who seems to have been of a singularly roaming disposition, for he was located at different times in New London, Stratford, Middletown, Meriden and Jamaica, L. I. He probably died at this latter place. One of his sons did not accompany him but settled in Middletown near Higby Mountain, and his descendants are hereabouts to this day. So far as we can learn Edward Higbee (or Higby as spelled now) was the first white man to take up his permanent abode in Meriden. Savage, in his Genealogical Dictionary, says he was an inn keeper in Middletown in 1674. That he lived on Mr. Gilbert's farm is certain from the contents of a deposition made by his son, John Higbee, in 1683, in which he says "* * * when my father, Edward Higbe Sen. lived at Mr. Jonathan Gilbord's farme called Meriden."[1] We know that Mr. Higbee was in this vicinity very shortly after Mr. Gilbert acquired his farm, for Mr. Perkins in his Historical Sketches of Meriden,[2] copied a deed from Seaukett, Indian, to Edward Higbee conveying all the land between Mr. Gilbert's Meriden Farm and Pilgrims' Harbor Brook. Seaukett was an Indian whose name appears in Windsor documents. It is variously spelled Seoket and Seacet. Dr. Stiles in his History of Windsor says he was one of the Poquonnock Indians. The deed is as follows:

Oct. 14, 1664.

Know all men by these presents that I Seaukett Indian (abiding in or about Hartford on Conec't) Sachem owner and true proprietor of a large tract of land in the woods towards New Haven att and about the lands now in possession of Mr. Jonathan Gilbert entitled and known by the name Merideen doe sell unto Edward Higby on parcell of land adjoining to the lands of Jonathan Gilbert aforesaid—Hills, Rocks, Swamps and all other appurtenances bounded and formerly (formally) defined by marked trees and by the land of say'd Jonathan Gilbert and Pilgrims' Harber Brook or River—all which say'd parcell of land with all prerogatives, priviledges and any kind of appurtenances thereon and thereunto belonging, it shall be Lawful for the say'd Edward Higbey, his heirs and assigns to improve, possess, enjoy and that forever as fully and as freely as the said Sea-

1 Volume called Private Controversies in the State Library in the Capitol at Hartford.
2 Page 104.

ket ever did or might have done in witness whereof by these presents I bind myself, my heirs and assigns, quietly and peaceably to leave in the full possession of all the premises the say'd Edward Higbey never to be molested by me the say'd Seaket, my heirs or any other Indian or Indians whatsoever and so subscribe my name.

The mark of  Seaukeet.

In presence and witness of Bryan Rossetter and Mary Gilbert.

Mr. Rossetter was a man of prominence and a physician and lived at Guilford and his son John afterwards married Mr. Gilbert's daughter. In this deed is the first recorded use of the name Meriden. After Mr. Higbee had acquired the Indian title to the land in question he was confirmed in it by the action of the General Court October 12, 1665. On the Middletown land records under date of July 15, 1668,[1] is a further description of the property which is considerably contracted from that of the Indian deed just quoted. It is somewhat difficult from the certainly inaccurate survey and description to locate the precise limits of the tract of land. But from later deeds when the land was sold and divided one would say that the boundaries were about as follows: Beginning at the Center street crossing of Harbor Brook draw a line west one mile long, thence north another mile, then east half a mile; thence southeast to about where Broad street crosses Harbor Brook thence to the starting point at Center street. Just where his house stood we cannot positively state but it was probably on the south side of the junction of Kensington avenue and Colony street. This deed takes us back to a time when there were, in all probability, only two houses in Meriden, one Mr. Higbee's and the other the inn of Mr. Gilbert, and our township was almost an unbroken wilderness. Some idea of the amount of travel between Hartford and New Haven may be gained by the following extract from the Conn. Col. Records under date of Oct. 11, 1666.

"This Court orders that Edward Higbey for makeing and maintaining the way over Pilgrooms Harbour passable for man and horse shal have his estate and farme free of countrey [Rates] for this yeare and next he maintaineing the way soe longe as aforesaid."[2] One who remembers the condition of the "Corner" many years ago will confess that Mr. Higbee fully earned his exemption from taxes. It probably involved much more than building a bridge over the brook which is not mentioned. Nothing would have made the way passable except a corduroy or log foundation. How long Mr. Higbee continued to live in Meriden we do not know; but Middletown records tell us that in 1673 he sold his "housing and land near Pilgrims' Harbor" to Henry Cole, of Middletown, and shortly after removed to Jamaica, L. I.

1 Middletown Land Records, Vol. I., p. 111.
2 Conn. Col. Records, Vol. II., p. 52.

But to return to Jonathan Gilbert and his farm. Shortly after he had obtained it he built his inn. Mr. E. H. Yale many years ago in digging a well just south of his house, unearthed the remains of the ancient foundation. The inn was doubtless a famous place and many an interesting tale must have been told around its hospitable hearth of witches and goblins and hairbreadth escapes from the savage Indians. Nothing now is left but a name and a few facts gleaned from musty records. Could these sturdy pioneers return again to this spot and in the dusk of a summer evening watch the ghost-like bicycles and automobiles fleeting by on the smooth macadam road which now skirts the farm, what tales of wonder and mystery they would tell—of how witches have discarded the awkward broomsticks and now bestride the back of an iron goblin, or, borne by a snorting, flaming dragon, they pass one like a breath of wind to their nocturnal orgies; while the roar and rumble of a train on the other side of the farm would certainly convince them that the powers of hell were waxing strong indeed. But those old days are gone never to return and so utterly are they forgotten that the few facts we can save from oblivion merely sketch like a wisp of mist events we would fain see more clearly. It should be constantly kept in mind that at this time the name of Meriden was applied solely to Mr. Gilbert's farm. It was not until many years later that the name was used to describe the whole territory we now know as Meriden. What to-day we call colloquially the "Corner" was then known as Pilgrims' Harbor and the brook acquired its name because it flowed through the locality. After Mr. Gilbert's death in 1682 there followed a bitter controversy among the heirs which resulted in probably one of the first, if not the first, contested will case in Connecticut. The documents in the case are on file in The State Library in the Capitol at Hartford in the volumes known as Private Controversies, and they give an interesting picture of the times. Mr. Gilbert left nine children and a widow. The eldest child, Jonathan, Jr., born of a previous wife, was cut off by the terms of the will with a small portion of his father's estate. He had been wild in his youth and evidently always a ne'er-do-well who had caused his father much distress, about which he had conversed with Edward Higbee at Meriden Farm. The will, which was dated in 1674, had left Meriden Farm to a son, Nathaniel, but as this son died before his father, the farm became the joint inheritance of all the surviving children. The contested will case was finally settled by Jonathan, Jr. taking some land on the "East side of the great River in Haddum" in settlement of his claim and the widow, Mary, bought his interest in the Meriden Farm on January 9, 1684. On September 6, 1686, all the other children sold their right in this farm to Andrew Belcher, of Charleston, New England, mariner, stating in the deed that the place was commonly called Merriden Farme and that it was then, in whole or in part, in the occupation of Samuel Elmor. The date of Elmor's be-

coming a tenant is not known; he was from Windsor and his father, Edward, was killed in King Philips war in 1676. The Belcher connection with the farm made such an impression that to this day the locality is known as the Belcher farm and the Belchers, father and son, were men of such importance in New England that these facts ought to create in us a romantic interest in their personality and ownership of this farm.

Captain Andrew Belcher had married Mr. Gilbert's daughter Sarah July 1, 1670. He was born in Cambridge, Mass., January 1, 1648, and was son of Andrew Belcher, inn-keeper, who emigrated from Danbury, Essex Co., England.[1] We know of Andrew, Jr., first as a mariner plying between Boston and Hartford and his name occurs frequently in the Colonial Records and he evidently amassed a considerable fortune in his ventures, for he finally achieved the reputation of being the most opulent merchant in New England. He was shrewd and energetic and evidently was capable of driving a hard bargain. While he was one of the counsellors of Massachusetts the selectmen of Boston, having objected to his sending corn to Curacoa in the Dutch West Indies on account of a scarcity of that article in New England he tartly replied, "The hardest fend off; if you stop my vessels I will hinder the coming in of three times as much."[2] He was in trouble in 1682 for breaking the navigation laws and his vessel was seized at Boston,[3] and in 1688 he was accused of trading with a "pyrate" for hides and elephants' teeth.[4] After the terrible swamp fort fight at South Kingston in R. I. Dec. 19, 1675, in King Philips war, the hardy soldiers were in great distress for lack of provisions, but that very night "it mercifully came to pass that Captain Andrew Belcher arrived at Mr. Smith's with a vessel laden with provisions for the army which must otherwise have perished for want."[5] Whether the merciful appearance of Captain Belcher's vessel was caused by his love of gain or by patriotism, let whom will decide. His success in life was pronounced and evidently atoned for some shortcomings for after his death he is described as "a man of integrity and honor, a friend to religion and learning."[6] He certainly was an illustrious example of a "free trader" for he seems to have traded where he listed without fear of laws or consequences. His son Jonathan wrote a letter to Mr. Prince, giving an estimate of his father's character as follows: "Sir * * * What you desire respecting my deceas'd Father and myself is a difficult Task and I know not when I shall be able to undertake it. For altho' this be a little Government [New Jersey] yet it calls for much attention and attendance for the King's honour and for

1 N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVII., pp. 239-240.
2 Sewall's Diary, May 20, 1713.
3 Wheedon's Econ. and Social His. N. E., Vol. I., p. 239.
4 Idem, Vol. I., p 342.
5 Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Ed. 1795, Vol. I., p. 272.
6 N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVIII., p. 230.

seeking the good and welfare of the people and my large correspondence to New England and larger than heretofore to Great Britain, keeps me in full employe. These things, notwithstanding, If you would tell me your Design and State any questions to me I would Indeavour to answer them. My father was as great a Genius as his Country could boast of but wanted an Education to Improve and polish it. (Gov. Dudley) who was a good Judge used to say Mr. Comissary Belcher would make a good Minister of State to any Prince in Europe, Especially in the Article of Finances. His late Farewell and Blessing of me show'd his strong thoughts and great modesty. Its fresh in my Memory and will be till the Frost of Age seals up that Faculty; he called me to his Bedside, took me by the hand and said—Son you may expect me to bless you in a better manner and style than I am able to do for God did not put it into your Grand Father's power to give me the Education he Inabled me to give you, but remember my Last Words to you are—May the Blessing of the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob rest upon you and your seed forever. Amen. Farewell. Neither the Patriarchs nor Apostles could have done it better. Just as he was Expiring the Blanket was offensive to His Face so he rais'd himself a little from his Pillow and said to the Late Madam Sewall who watcht with him, give me the sheet for it is my winding sheet; then he unroll'd his arms in it and said I will lay me down and dye in Peace and Expir'd in a minute. I should not have Troubled you with this Acc' but as it may make some Little part of an Answer to what you have desired * * * I thank you for the Sermon preacht upon the death of my Late dear and Excellent Sister which has given me much pleasure in readg.

Rev. and Worthy Sir

Very much your Friend and servant,

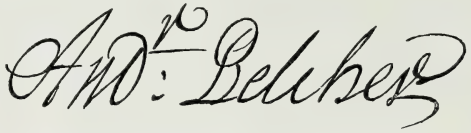
J. BELCHER.

Burlington, June 7, 1748.[1]

Why Capt. Belcher should have desired to own Meriden Farm we cannot certainly know. It is probable that the returns from the farm at this time were considerable. It was an important place evidently and possibly the proceeds from beavers in the vicinity were considerable. But beyond any apparent returns from the surface there was always the alluring possibility of hidden wealth in the ground. Our Puritan forefathers were always chasing a will o' the wisp of this sort. Many of the old deeds bear witness to the truth of this statement and the mountains in the vicinity of Meriden seem to have excited the expectation that some day the diligent searcher would be handsomely rewarded. On the hills west of the farm there are still to be seen places where excavations were made in the hope of finding iron or copper or even gold. "Many of the adventurers to North America

1 N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVII., pp. 240-241.

were strongly possessed with an idea of the riches of North as well as of South America. They conceived that its mountains and hills abounded with precious metals and minerals; and that, however rich the soil might be, yet that the bowels of the earth would afford them much greater wealth. Much pains were, therefore, bestowed on various parts of the country to discover these sources of wealth."[1] A man of Capt. Belcher's wealth and widely extended business ventures could not have spent very much of his time on the farm; still he kept in touch with its needs and possibilities and he certainly expended considerable sums in improving the property. On June 18, 1700, he bought of the widow, Mary Gilbert her interest in the farm[2] and in October, 1703, the Colonial Court, in consideration of the "amount of money Mr. Belcher hath expended in improving



(Facsimile of signature taken from a letter in possession of the writer.)

the land and building tennantable houses and settling tennants therein and other improvements which are like to be a publick as well as private benefitt the said tenements being conveniently situate for the relief of travailers in their journeying from place to place, for his incouragement to goe forward with his improvements doe see cause to grant his petition and doe now give and grant unto the said Andrew Belcher all the said four hundred and seventie acres" he had bought of the Gilbert heirs[3] and the following May gave him in addition the land from the East Side of the farm to the top of Lamentation Mt., "consisting of steep rocky hills and very stoney land, judged to be very mean and of little value."[4] Mr. Belcher's farm was now a very large one and with other purchases he had made adjoining, contained about twelve hundred acres and he now called it "My Meriden Manor." It is probable that Capt. Belcher built the stone house that made the farm noteworthy. But it disappeared many years ago, no one knows how or when. There are many traditions still extant, for the personality of the Belchers impressed itself strongly on the locality. Of the wall which bounded the farm on the west the following story is told by Mr. Kendall in his Travels Through the Northern Parts of the United States in 1807-8.[1]

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1 Trumbull's Hist of Conn., Vol. II., p. 40.
2 Records: Office Secretary of State.
3 Col. Records, Vol. IV., pp. 450-451.
4 Idem, p. 475.
1 Vol. I,, p. 122.

When Mr. Belcher owned the farm "the Indians were at this time troublesome; and mention is made of a wall built by Mr. Belcher as if for purposes of defence. In this way, however, it could be of no use; for it was of more than a mile in circuit and formed of uncemented stones, raised only four feet high, like the walls at present common in the country. This wall, however, had some extraordinary personages among its builders. It is current in tradition, that fourteen or fifteen settlers came into Mr. Belcher's neighborhood, from the town of Farmington, of whom the whole band possessed unusual strength and stature. Two were of the name of Hart. Of these one, whose son at the age of seventy years is still alive, is said to have had bones so large that an Indian, who, with others, was passing through the settlement, stopped and examined him with surprise. Mr. Hart and his fellow giants were employed by Mr. Belcher on his wall."

This stone wall skirted the then road to Kensington which long since ceased to be used, but it is still possible to trace this old road, once the usual route of travel to that parish. If one starts at the old Way place now owned by Mr. E. H. Higginson and follows the road running west over the railroad track, within perhaps a quarter mile a point is reached where the road turns at right angle and runs south to Colony street, reaching it just below the old Malleable Iron Co. factory, now owned by The Meriden Fire Arms Co. If, instead of turning south at the right angle mentioned, one keeps on to the west the lane is soon found turning gradually to the north and soon one has the ancient Meriden Farm on the right. At times the traces of this ancient highway are difficult to follow; but perseverance, after a while, brings one to where it is again a well traveled road.

There was another road to Kensington which began where Kensington avenue leaves Colony street and followed the present line of the avenue as far as the present trotting park (there was then no road through Cat Hole Pass). Here it turned toward the north and finally climbed the steep sides of the mountain, coming out near Botsford's or Corrigan's corner. All that is now left of this road is the old Bailey road, skirting the west side of the trotting park. There was a road branching from it which joined the one already described as bordering Meriden Farm, on the west. Over these old roads now neglected and almost lost to sight in a tangle of briar bog and forest our great grandparents plodded their way on foot, or in saddle or pillion on horseback were carried over these weary miles to Kensington Parish or Farmington Village. The southern limits of Farmington at this time were bounded by the laneway just south of Albert Norton's house in Berlin, so that none of Meriden Farm was in the town of Farmington.

For some years after the colony had confirmed Capt. Belcher's title to the farm and enlarged its bounds we learn nothing to add to our annals. It is probable that the captain frequently visited the farm and gave careful attention to its needs and with his tenants made frequent search for the minerals which the rocky

sides of Lamentation had seemed to promise, but evidently without success. On Oct. 22, 1707, he deeded to "My son Jonathan my mannor or farme of Meriden near to a place called Cold Spring now in tennance and occupation of Joseph Hopkins, Sam'l Peck and Samuel Hubbard, their under tenants or assigns" and henceforth his connection with Meriden Farm ceases; he died Oct. 31, 1717.

And now enters a character, the most famous in our early annals. In his day the most distinguished of the sons of New England; charming in his manners, delightful in his vanity; picturesque in his lordly way of dispensing hospitality and always conscious that he was his majesty's most imposing representative in these Puritan commonwealths.



(Facsimile of signature taken from document in possession of writer.)

son of Captain Andrew and Sarah (Gilbert) Belcher, was born in Boston Jan. 8, 1682-3. He graduated at Harvard college in the class of 1699 and then spent some time in traveling in England and on the continent to prepare himself for the large inheritance his father was to leave him. He had an honorable reception at the Court of the Elector of Hanover and that of St. James in England. Returning home he followed in his father's steps as merchant, representative in the General Court of Massachusetts and member of the Council. In person he was graceful and attractive; he had a cheerful countenance, a hearty voice, a demonstrative gesticulation and an habitually affable address; altogether he was a man of society and of the world.[1] An heir to a large fortune, he had been accustomed to dispense it in ways to draw attention and give him consequence. His acquaintance with Connecticut people was wide and in 1729 he acted as agent for this colony in England. While there he threw out intimations in high quarters that the view he once held regarding the king's prerogative had undergone a change.[2] Returning he was appointed royal governor of Massachusetts, which position he held until 1741. His administration, while considered by some a fairly good one, has been accused by others as honeycombed by political corruption. He had the usual troubles with the colonial court; and his character, prone to small resentments and foolishly irritable, did not tend to smooth matters. He was not troubled like his differently constituted and differently trained predecessor by pride and obstinacy abouts points of honor. He loved intrigue and underhanded methods.

1 Palfrey's Hist. of N. E., Vol. IV., p. 530.
2 Nar. and Crit. Hist. of Am., Vol. V., pp. 131-132.

The ways of thinking of his early training kept their hold on his experienced mind. He brought into politics some habits of trade. When finally removed from his position in 1741 he was appointed governor of New Jersey, where he governed with success and satisfaction to himself and the people for sixteen years. The following anecdote illustrates the governor's vanity to perfection. He lived in grand style in a mansion he had built at Milton, Mass., which was surrounded by large grounds, modelled on the style of an English estate; and he had many



GOVERNOR BELCHER.[1]

servants and equipages. In laying out the avenue to his proposed mansion he told his architect that he wished it executed with such precision "that friends and visitors on their first entrance upon the avenue might see the gleaming of his gold kneebuckles as he stood on the distant piazza." This house was burned in 1776. Governor Belcher, as stated before, acquired the title to Meriden Farm Oct. 22, 1707. For some years his ownership left no impress on our records. But he doubtless was familiar with the property and frequently visited it for his acquaintance with people in central Connecticut was considerable. He kept a book in which were preserved drafts of all his letters so that we have a record of a great deal of his correspondence which has been printed in the Massachusetts Historical Society collections. It has already been stated that the elder Belcher was probably induced to buy Meriden Farm by the alluring prospect of hidden

1 This cut taken from Memorial History of Boston follows a portrait painted in 1729 by Leopoldt. It hangs in the gallery of Mass. Hist. Soc.

stores of copper and other minerals in the rocky sides of the nearby hills and had left the still visible traces of diligent prospecting at different points. But in 1712 there appears in the records of the General Court[1] the first positive evidence that the Belcher family had at last discovered sufficient traces of this hidden wealth to warrant an actual investment of pounds, shillings and pence to bring it forth to the light of day, and from that time on for many years Jonathan Belcher and his partners poured forth a steady stream of good colonial money in the vain endeavor to mine copper in sufficient quantities to make the investment a profitable one. In the western parts of Wallingford and in Granby the mines were located and miners were imported from Germany and other places. Not only was Jonathan Belcher a loser in these ventures but the craze infected all classes and the records of Wallingford abound in mining leases to men and women in Boston, New York and Wallingford. Some were ruined and lost their all in this mad hunt for wealth, among others Adam Winthrop, a great-grandson of the first governor of Massachusetts. The venture was an unfortunate one for Governor Belcher, and his losses were very large for the operations were carried on for many years. But this is not the place to tell the story of copper mining in Connecticut. Governor Belcher must have spent much time at his Meriden Farm during the copper mining venture, for his correspondence book contains many items relating to people in this part of Connecticut. In the year 1720 he placed Eleazer Aspinwall, of Brookline, Mass., in charge of his Meriden Farm and thereafter there are constant references to this farm. Aspinwall, doubtless, kept up the tavern or inn and gained what income he could from the soil and paid a rental to the owner and so far as we know this arrangement was satisfactory to Mr. Belcher and the relation between landlord and tenant was harmonious for many years. But in the year 1731 Mr. Belcher was appointed royal governor of Massachusetts and naturally his interest in the far away Connecticut farm began to wane. To add to his dissatisfaction the copper mining ventures had proved anything but profitable. He wrote in 1735 that during about twenty-three years he had disbursed upwards of fifteen thousand pounds in this vain quest.[2] Added to this Mr. Aspinwall had become dilatory in paying his rent. Altogether the governor thought it high time to dispose of his Meriden Farm. From 1731 to 1735 we find in his draft book various letters to Rev. Elisha Williams, rector of Yale college, Rev. Samuel Whittlesey of Wallingford, Joseph Pitkin of Hartford and Rev. Ebenezer Williams of Pomfret. All these letters betray great anxiety to sell Meriden Farm and the last one of the series says, "I am content to sell my Meriden Farme if you can meet a chap that will give a reasonable price and pay the money down when I execute the deed." In Oct., 1732, he sent his son, Andrew, to Connecti-

1 Col. Records Conn., Vol. V., pp. 323 and 455.
2 Phelps Hist. of Simsbury, Granby and Canton, p. 115.

cut to look after his interests there and his letters to Aspinwall about his unpaid rent became quite peremptory. Whether it was ever paid we do not know, but the disgust of the governor now became so great that he determined to get rid of the farm at any cost and the only victim he seems to have been able to find was his son, Andrew; perhaps on the theory that adversity is a good teacher and that if his son could make an income out of the farm he would acquire a talent and genius for business that would make him a rival to his grandfather. Governor Belcher during his ownership had spent much money on the farm, and had evidently tried to make it an attractive "Manor." The pond which now spreads over seventy-five acres of its meadows, due to the dam built by the Hartford Ice Company, had a predecessor, for the governor during the days of his pride in the estate had also built one about three hundred feet north of the present one and the remains of this old dam now shaded by lordly old oaks and hickories are very easily traced.[1] On a recent summer day the writer followed the brook as it wanders through the meadows, murmuring and gurgling as it did in the days of the beavers and the aristocratic old governor. He paused at the gap between high banks where his excellency had once caused the dike to be built, and he suddenly found himself confronted by four genuine knights of the road. Three were fast asleep on the grassy bank, their dirty and peaceful faces shaded by the sun-flecked shadows cast by a sturdy old oak. The fourth, wide awake, and absorbed in a copy of the New York Journal, looked up and asked "looking for anything, boss." "Yes," was the answer, "a dam that used to be here." "Well, boss," said the tramp, "this has been one of our resting places for fifteen years and I never seen no dam here." He proved to be a philosophical knight for after a short talk he said, "purty here, isn't it, and handy to the railroad? I'm better off than you, boss, for you want to stay and have got to go, but I can stay until I'm tired of it and then go to another place just as purty." A parting glimpse from a distance showed the tramp busy hanging a can of water over a fire, preparing a repast of one knows not what concoction. We have followed the career of the governor through many years and it would not be displaying proper respect to leave him here. A few brief facts will be added to this sketch and then we will say good bye to him when he enters "the undiscover'd country from whose bourne no traveler returns." He was twice married; first to Mary, the daughter of Governor Partridge, of New Hampshire. She died in 1736, and her funeral was on so magnificent a scale that the streets and housetops were packed with sight-seers as the cortege passed through the streets of Boston. His second wife was a Miss Teal, of New Jersey. Of his children, it is only necessary to mention two—Andrew, to whom Meriden Farm was deeded, and Jonathan, Jr., who be-

1 Farmington Records Aug. 17, 1714: Samuel Newell sold to Jonathan Belcher the right to drown or flood his lands by any dam or dams not exceeding 12 foot high from bottom of work.

came Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. They were both the cause of much annoyance to their father on account of their idleness and extravagance. Andrew, in particular, did not aspire to the rank which his father's ambition had marked out for him. The event in his life which is most interesting to us is that when Bishop Berkeley sent his library to Yale college in 1733, the gift was consigned to Andrew Belcher.[1] The governor died Aug. 31, 1757, at Elizabethtown, N. J. We learn from the Boston *News Letter* of Dec. 1, 1757, "The corpse of his excellency, Jonathan Belcher, Esq., late Gov. of New Jersey, was brought hither last week from New York and deposited in a new tomb built for that purpose at Cambridge agreeable to the desire of his Excell'y before his death." In a funeral sermon preached by Rev. Aaron Burr, president of the college of New Jersey, it is stated, "His father was the Famous Andrew B., Esq., one of his Majesty's Council in the Province of Mass. Bay, justly esteemed an ornament and blessing to his country. (The Governor's) excellent endowments of mind (learning and travel) were set off by a peculiar beauty and gracefulness of person, in which he was excelled by no man of his day. There was a dignity in his mien and deportment which commanded respect. This joined with the frank, open and generous manner in which he treated his friends, his polite and easy behaviour towards strangers rendered him the delight of the one and the admiration of the other. The scholar, the accomplished gentleman and the true Christian were seldom ever more happily and thoroughly united than in him." Gov. Hutchinson, in his History of Massachusetts, states that Belcher was the victim of political intrigues while governor of that province and his view of his character does not at all agree with the slurring remarks of more modern historians. On the Wallingford land records[2] under date June 9, 1741, Andrew Belcher, of Boston, sold to Jedediah Norton and John Yale of Wallingford for £1950 "all that tract of land containing by estimation 670 acres, being that part of Meriden Farm, so called, lying west of the Country Road leading from Hartford to New Haven." To this day much of the old farm still remains in the hands of the Yale and Norton families. On March 4, 1742, Andrew Belcher sold to Samuel Peck, Nathaniel Edwards and Zebulon Peck, all of Middletown for £1925, "all that farm of land called Meriden, lying eastward of Country Road and containing 350 acres, bounded easterly on top of Lamentation Mt.," etc.[3] Thus came to an end all connection of the Belcher family with our Meriden Farm; a connection so noteworthy that to this day the property is still frequently called the Belcher Farm.

Since the foregoing chapter was put in print the writer has gained some additional information relative to Meriden Farm, which he thinks of sufficient importance to add in the form of a note or appendix.

1 N. H. Col. Hist. Soc. Collections, Vol. I., p. 162.
2 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. IX., pp. 18-19.
3 Idem, pp. 30-31.

A careful study of the Wallingford records has convinced him that the southern boundary of the farm extended to the road or laneway running west from the old Eli Way place on North Colony road, now owned by Mr. E. H. Higginson. This road was the ancient highway to Kensington, which has already been described. It is fully a quarter of a mile south of what the writer had previously believed to be the southern boundary of the farm.

From Mrs. Hiram Richmond (a daughter of Selden Merriam and granddaughter of Sidney Merriam who came into possession of the tavern or inn and many acres adjoining about the year 1812) has been gained the fact, that in 1833 the old building was moved to the rear for a wood shed and carriage house, and the present house was erected on the ancient site, now occupied by Mr. Michaelis. Between this house and that of Mrs. E. H. Yale to the north, stood what Mrs. Richmond had supposed was a stone fort which disappeared long before the Merriams acquired the property. The reason for believing this building to have been a fort was the existence of subterranean stone chambers in the rear that were called powder magazines, which were filled in probably fifty years since. This old stone building was doubtless erected for purposes of defense and was really a fort, but it must have had the general outlines of a house for the old records refer to the old building as "stone house." The entries relating to stone house farm are many and are always used in connection with this particular part of Meriden or Belcher Farm. Had the building been in shape like a fort the records would have called it stone fort farm.

Nearly sixty years ago, the late Henry S. Wilcox, then a boy of ten, wrote a composition on the early history of Meriden. There was no history of the town then in existence. There are so many early dates and facts given in this article that are corroborated by recent examination of the early records that there is the strongest evidence that the boy got his data from some one who knew many facts long since forgotten, and who had seen the old stone house. From this boy's composition, we learn that the building was well constructed to withstand an Indian attack, for the door was filled so full of spikes that a bullet could not be shot through it, and instead of windows there were port holes, through which one inside could use his rifle with deadly effect.

The probable explanation of this stone house seems to the writer to be this: viz, that the building was erected during the troublous times of 1675 and 1676 when all New England was in great apprehension on account of the war of extermination begun by the Indians, which is commonly called King Philips War. Wallingford was so alarmed by the outlook that armed guards or pickets were constantly maintained and the village fortified. What more natural than that the owner or occupant of a farm unprotected and alone in the wilderness, should erect a stone building adjoining his ordinary habitation, for refuge is case of last

resort? It was doubtless built hastily, and therefore did not last as long as the wooden building adjoining, built much more leisurely. This wooden house was very old when removed to the rear and has long since disappeared; it was probably the building erected by Mr. Gilbert when the farm was granted to him in 1661, and was consequently 172 years old when abandoned as a dwelling.



(Facsimile of book plate used by Andrew Belcher, Sr. From original in possession of writer.)

CHAPTER III.

Copies of land deeds and documents relating to the purchase of lands to the northward showing the basis for the statement that the planters of New Haven made purchases of land from the Indians extending from New Haven harbor northwardly as far as the junction of Kensington avenue and Colony street or one mile north of where Colony street crosses Pilgrims' Harbor brook.

INDIAN DEEDS

OF

THE PLANTATION OF NEW HAVEN.

Articles of agreement betweene Theophilus Eaton & John Davenport & others, English planters att Quinopiocke on the one partye & Momaugin y^e^ Indian Sachem of Quinopiocke & Sugcogisin, Quesaquauch, Caroughood, Wesaucucke, & others of his counsell on the other partye, made & concluded the 24^th^ of Novemb^r^ 1638. Thomas Stanton being interpreter.

That hee y^e^ s^d^ sachem, his counsell & company doe jointly profess, affirme & covent, [th]at he y^e^ s^d^ Momaugin is the sole sachem of Quinopiocke, & hath an absolute and independant power to give, alien, dispose or sell, all or any part of the lands in Quinopiocke, & that though he have a son now absent, yet neither his s^d^ son, nor any other pson whatsoever hath any right title or interest in any part of the s^d^ lands, soe that whatsoever he, y^e^ forenamed sachem, his counsell & y^e^ rest of y^e^ Indians present doe & conclude, shall stand firme & inviolable against all claimes & psons whatsoever.—

Secondly y^e^ s^d^ sachem, his counsell & company, amongst which there was a squaw sachem called Shampishuh sister to y^e^ sachem, whoe either had or p^r^tended some interest in some part of y^e^ land, remembring and acknowledging the heavy taxes & eminent dangers w^ch^ they lately felt & feared from y^e^ Pequotts, Mohaucks & other Indians, in regard of which they durst not stay in their country, but were forced to flie, & to seeke shelter under the English at Conecticutt, and observing y^e^ safety & ease y^t^ other Indians enjoy neare y^e^ English, of which benefitt they have had a comfortable tast already since the English began to build & plant at Quinopiocke, which w^th^ all thankfullnes they now acknowledged. They jointly & freely gave & yeilded up all y^r^ right, title & interest to all y^e^ land, rivers &

ponds, trees with all y^e^ libertyes & appurtenances belonging unto y^e^ same in Quinopiocke to y^e^ utmost of their bounds East, West, North, South unto Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport & others, the p^r^sent English planters there, & to their heires & assignes for ever, desiring from y^m^ y^e^ s^d^ English planters to receive such a portion of ground on the East side of the Harbour towards y^e^ fort at y^e^ mouth of y^e^ river of Conecticott as might be sufficient for them, being but few in number, to plant in; and yet within these limitts to be hereafter assigned to them, they did coven^t^ & freely yeild up unto y^e^ s^d^ English all the meadow ground lieing therein, with full liberty to chuse & cut downe what timber they please, for any use whatsoever, without any question, licence or consent to be asked from them y^e^ s^d^ Indians, and if, after their portion & place be limited & set out by the English as above, they y^e^ s^d^ Indians shall desire to remove to any other place within Quinopiocke bounds, but without y^e^ limitts assigned them, that they doe it not without leave, neither setting up any wigwam, nor breaking up any ground to plant corne, till first it be sett [ou]t & appointed by y^e^ forenamed English planters for them.

Thirdly y^e^ s^d^ sachem, his counsell & company desireing liberty to hunt & fish [withi]n the bounds of Quinopiocke now given and graunted to the English as before, doe [hereby] jo[in]tly coven^t^ & bind themselves to sett noe traps neare any place where y^e^ [ ] whether horses, [ox]en, kine, calves, sheep, goates, hoggs or any sort [

* * * * * * * * * * * *

to take] any fish out of any ware belonging to any English, nor to doe any thing neare any such ware as to dis[turb] or affright away any fish to y^e^ p^r^judice of such ware or wares; & that upon discovery of any inconveni[en]cy growing to y^e^ English by the Indians disorderly hunting, their hunting shalbe regulated and limited for the p^r^venting of any inconvenience, & yet with as litle damage to y^e^ Indians in their hunting as may be.

Fourthly, y^e^ s^d^ sachem, his counsell & company doe hereby covenant and bind themselves y^t^ none of them shall henceforth hanker about any of y^e^ English houses at any time when the English use to meete about the publique worship of God; nor on ye Lords day henceforward bee seene within y^e^ compass of y^e^ English towne, beareing any burdens, or offring to truck with y^e^ English for any comodity whatsoever, & y^t^ none of y^m^ henceforward without leave, open any latch belonging to any English mens dore, nor stay in any English house after warneing that he should leave the same, nor doe any violence, wrong, or injury to y^e^ pson of y^e^ English whether man, woman, or child, upon any p^r^tence whatsoever, and if the English of this plantation, by y^m^selves or cattle, doe any wrong or damage to y^e^ Indians, upon complaint, just recompence shalbe made by y^e^ English; and y^t^

none of ym henceforward use or take any English mans boate or canoe of what kind soever, from ye place where it was fastened or layd, without leave from the owner first had & obtayned, nor yt they come into ye English towne wth bowes & arrowes, or any other weapons whatsoever in number above 6 Indyans soe armed at a time.

Fifthly ye sd sachem, his counsell & company doe truly covenant & bind ymselves yt if any of ym shall hereafter kill or hurt any English cattle of wt sort soever, though casually or negligently, they shall give full satisfaction for the loss or damage as the English shall judge equall, But if any of ym for any respect, wilfully doe kill or hurt any of the English cattle, upon proofe they shall pay ye double valew, And if, at anytime, any of them find any of the English cattle straying or lost in the woods, they shall bring them backe to the English plantation, & a moderate price or recompence shalbe allowed for their paynes, provided, if it can be proved yt any of ym drove away any of ye English cattle wheresoever they find them, further from ye English plantation to make an increase or advantage, or recompence for his paynes finding or bringing ym back, they shall in any such case pay damages for such dealings.

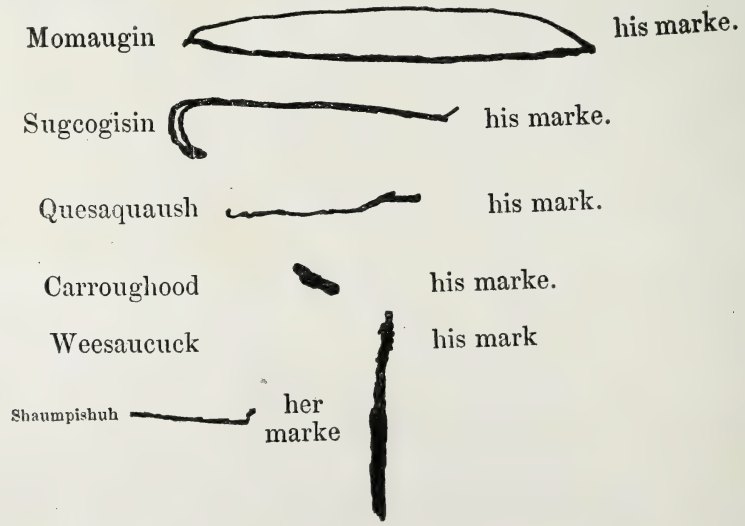
Sixthly, the number of ye Quinopyocke Indyans, men or youth growne to stature fit for service being forty seven at prsent, they doe covenant and bind ymselves not to receive, or admitt any other Indians amongst them without leave first had & obtayned from ye English, & that they will not, at any time hereafter, entertaine or harbor any that are enemies to ye English, but will prsently aprhend such & deliver ym to ye English, and if they know or heare of any plott by ye Indyans or others against ye English they will forthwith discover & make ye same knowne to ym, & in case they doe not, to be accounted as partyes in ye plott, and to be proceeded against as such.

Lastly ye sd sachem, his counsell & company doe hereby promise truly & carefully to observe & keepe all & every one of these articles of agreemt, & if any of ym offend in any of ye prmisses, they jointly hereby subject & submitt such offendor or offendors to ye consideration, censure & punishmt of the English magestrate or officers appointed among them for governmentt without expecting yt ye English should first advise with ym about it, yet in any such case of punishmt if the sd sachem shall desire to know the reason & equity of such pceedings, hee shall truly be informed of the same.

The former article being read & interprted to ym, they by way of exposition desired yt in ye sixth article it might be added, that if any of the English cattle be killed or hurt casually, or negligently, & proofe made it was done by some of the Quinopiock Indyans, they will make satisfaction, or if done by any other Indyans in their sight, if they doe not discover it, & if able to bring ye offendor to ye English they wilbe accounted & dealt with as guilty.

In consideration of all which, they desire from y^e^ English, that if at any time hereafter they be affrighted in their dwellings assigned by the English unto y^m^ as before, they may repayre to the English plantation for shelter, & that y^e^ English will therein a just cause endeavo^r^ to defend y^m^ from wronge, But in any quarrell or warres which they shall undertake, or have w^th^ other Indyans, upon any occasion w^t^soever they will manage their affayres by y^m^selves without expecting any ayd from the English.

And the English planters before mentioned accepting and graunting according to y^e^ tenor of the p^r^mises, doe further of their owne accord, by way of free & thankefull retribution, give un[to] y^e^ s^d^ sachem, counsell & company of y^e^ Quinopiocke Indians, twelve coats of English trucking cloath, twelve alcumy spoones, twelve hatchetts, twelve hoes, two dozen of knives, twelve porengers & foure cases of French knives and sizers; All which being thankfully accepted by y^e^ afores^d^ & y^e^ agreements in all points perfected; for rattification & full confirmation of the same, the Sachem, his counsell & sister, to these p^r^sents have sett to their hands or markes y^e^ day & year above written.



I, Thomas Stanton, being interpreter in this treaty, doe hereby profess in y^e^ p^r^sence of God, y^t^ I have fully acquainted the Indyans with y^e^ substance of every article, & truly returned their answer & consent to the same, according to y^e^ tenno^r^ of the foregoing writeing, the truth of which, if lawfully called, I shall readily confirme by my oath at any time.

Thomas Stanton.

Articles of agreem^{t} betwixt Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport, & sundry other English planters at Quinnypiock on y^{e} one part, and Mantowese sonne of an Indyan sachem liveing att Mattabezeck, and nephew to Sequin on y^{e} other part, made & concluded the 11th day of Decemb^{r} 1638.

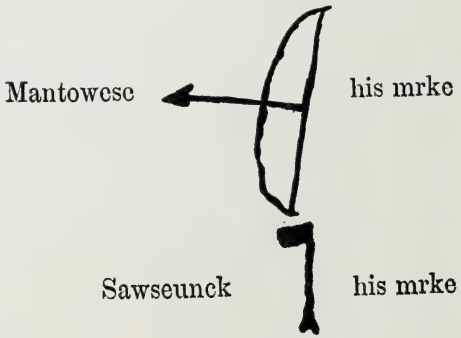
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First y^{e} s^{d} Mantowese in p^{r}sence & wth allowance and consent of Sawseunck an Indyan w^{ch} came in company wth him, doth profess, affirme and covenant, to & wth y^{e} s^{d} Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport & others above, that y^{e} land on both sides the river of Quinnypiock from y^{e} Northerly bounds ofy^{e} land lately purchased by the s^{d} English of y^{e} Quinnypiock Indyans, namely from y^{e} pond in y^{e} great meadow, about two miles above y^{e} great hill, to y^{e} head of y^{e} river at y^{e} great playne toward y^{e} plantations settled by y^{e} English upon y^{e} river of Quintecutt Southerly, which is about tenn miles in length from north to south, the bounds of which land run alsoe eight miles easterly from y^{e} river of Quinnypiock toward y^{e} river of Quintecutt, and five miles westerly towards Hudsons river, doth truely & solely belong to him y^{e} s^{d} Mantowese in right of his deceased mother, to whom y^{e} s^{d} land did appertaine, & from whom it justly descends upon him as his inheritance, soe y^{t} he hath an absolute & independant power to give, alien, dispose or sell all or any part of y^{e} s^{d} land, as he shall think good; and y^{t} neither his s^{d} father, or any other pson whatsoever, have any right, title or interest in any part of y^{e} land described and limited as above, whereby he or any other may hereafter justly question what y^{e} s^{d} Mantowese now doth, or lay any clayme to any part of y^{e} s^{d} land now disposed of by him.

Secondly the s^{d} Mantowese being fully acquainted wth y^{e} agreem^{ts} lately passed betwixt y^{e} s^{d} English planters & y^{e} sachem of Quinnypiock, his counsell & company, did freely, of his owne accord, upon full & serious deliberation, give, grant and yeild up all right, title and interest to all y^{e} land mentioned and bounded as above, with all the rivers, ponds, trees, and all liberties and appurtenances whatsoever belonging to y^{e} same, to the s^{d} Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport and other English planters att Quinnypiock, and to their heyres & assignes for ever, desireing from them, the s^{d} English planters, to receive such a small portion of land by the rivers side about two miles beyond y^{e} tree over y^{e} river, in the passage from hence towards y^{e} townes at Quintecutt, as may be sufficient for his small company, being but tenn men in number, besides women and children, w^{ch} portion of land they desire may hereafter, upon a view, be assigned, appointed and limited unto them by y^{e} s^{d} English planters, reserveing alsoe to himselfe and his forenamed company, liberty in fitt seasons & due manner without p^{r}udice to y^{e} English, to hunt, & fish & kill beaver, yet therein alsoe to be regulated by y^{e} s^{d} English upon discovery of any annoyance, as the Quinnypiock Indyans are in that case.

Lastly, the said Theophilus Eaton, John Davenport &c accepting from Mantowese this free gift of his hand as above, doe by way of thankfull retribution, give

unto him eleven coates made of trucking cloth, and one coate for himselfe of English cloth, made up after the English maner, w^{ch} being thankfully accepted by the s^{d} Mantowese, and the agreements in all points pfected, for ratification, and full confirmation of y^{e} same, Mantowese and Sawseunck have hereunto sett their hands or markes the day and year before written.



I, John Clarke, being interpreter in this treatie, doe hereby professe in the p^{r}sence of God that I have fully acquainted the Indyans with the substance of every article, to y^{e} w^{ch} they have freely agreed, that is to say y^{t} Mantowese have given to Mr. Davenport & Mr. Eaton all his land w^{ch} he had by his deceased mother, w^{ch} he saith is from y^{e} head of y^{e} great playne to the pond w^{ch} he professe to be his, & promise to make it good to o^{r} English, & for this hee is satisfyed with twelve coats, onely reserve a piece of land by the river for his men which are 10 and many squaws, to plant in, & when o^{r} cowes come there what harme their doggs doe to o^{r} cattle, they will satisfye for, and we for what harme o^{r} hoggs doe to them in corne, & as for hunting & fishing, to be free to them as o^{r}selves, provided o^{r} cattle suffer not by them, & with these particulars they are acquainted, & doe freely consent to them, as their marke wittness, the truth of which, if lawfully called, I shall readily confirme by my oath at any time.

per me John Clarke

We Robert Coggswell, Roger Knapp and James Love, doe hereby renounce all right to any & every part of the forementioned land.

Wittnes our hands hereunto

Robert Coggswell

James Love

Roger Knapp  his mrke.

Letter from Rev. John Davenport of New Haven Colony to John Winthrop, Jr.,[1] of Connecticut Colony.

To the Right Worshipfull John Winthrop, Esq^r., Governour of Connectacute, these present at Hartford

Honoured Sir—Scio sapiunt Phryges.[2] If I had as wel used my Προνοια[3] in preparing a letter as I was dilligent in harkening after opportunities for transmitting it, I had not bene thus surprized, before I had begun my letter. Brother Benham just now tells me that his companie is gone before: & he is going to Hartford. I blame him for not letting me know last night, but in vaine; yet I urge his stay a very little, that I may write these few lines, while he is buisied about making up your Curtaines which had bene with you before now if my wife could have procured him or John Thomas to have carryed them. I hope you will now receive them by him. Concerning the matter of the Indians, I hope Mr. Gilbert hath or will give you a cleare account. If the Indians you are pleased to mention should revenge themselves upon ours they will greatly wrong the innocent: for our Indians had no hand in that buisenes nor have spoken the least word for ought I can learne, to animate our men to what is done. And that which it seemes bro. Yale & bro. Cooper have spoken to your Indians, I never knew nor heard of but by your letter. Nor will there be anything done by any of ours to hinder your Indians in theyre hunting. But for the purchase it was made above 20 yeares past, without any seeking, on our part upon an offer made to our then Governour & Co. It was of Mantoweeze that the land was bought, whereby N. H. bounds extended neare unto the Cold Spring beyond Pilgrims Harbour. But of these things if you desire it our Governour will give you full intelligence when he shall be able, which I hope will be shortly, for the wrightings of that transaction are in his hands.

My selfe wife and son present our affectionate salutacions to yours. I rest

Yours exceedingly obliged

John Davenporte

New Haven the 30th day of the 8th m. 1660.

This letter shows that New Haven, in Mr. Davenport's opinion, had bought of the Indians, land extending north of Pilgrims' Harbor as far as Cold Spring.

In Volume I. relating to colonial lands and on file in the office of the secretary of state in the capitol at Hartford is a deed from the Indians to the proprietors

1 Mass. Hist. Society Col., 4th Series, Vol. VII., pp. 517-519.
2 Equivalent to our saying "a Yankee's wit comes too late."
3 Forethought.

and inhabitants of Wallingford, dated May 24, 1681, a full copy of which appears in Dr. Davis' History of Wallingford and Meriden, p. 27. Only a portion of this deed is here given, which shows that an Indian deed had been executed in 1645 extending the grant of 1638 ten miles farther to the north.

Wheras our predecessors Mantowese Sachem in the year 1638, December the eleventh, by a general deed of grant alienated, enfeoffed and sold a tract of land to Theophilus Eaton Esq^{r}., Mr. John Davenporte minister & to other English planters of Quinipyog alias New Haven as by an instrument at large doth appeare, alsoe by a second Grant as by an instrument dated in the year 1645 in the moneth May of the sayd year renewed the former grant and tract of Land to run from a great pond in New Haven east meadow twenty miles North & to be thirteen miles in breadth East & West which sayd tract of land was made over unto Theophilus Eaton Esq^{r} & Mr. Stephen Goodyear & Mr. Thomas Gregson Gentillman, of the aforesayd New Haven" etc., etc.

This deed of 1645 is probably not now in existence as a very diligent search has failed to reveal its whereabouts. The great pond in New Haven East Meadow is of course Lake Saltonstall and twenty miles north from the "great pond" would more than cover the statement of Rev. John Davenport that New Haven had purchased of the Indians land extending "neare unto the Cold Spring beyond Pilgrims' Harbour."

In the Connecticut State Library in the Capitol at Hartford are preserved many manuscript documents. Among these archives in Vol. IV., Document 66, of "Towns and Lands," in a petition dated October 10, 1722, and signed by several of the inhabitants of Wallingford, praying to the general court for relief in a certain land dispute and controversy, occurs this passage: "Humbly Sheweth That whereas there was a purchase of Land obtained by y^{e} ancient Proprietors of New Haven in y^{e} year 1638; of one Mantuese an Indian Sachem w^{ch} purchase extended northward even beyond y^{e} northermost bound of y^{t} w^{c} is now y^{e} Township of Wallingford; and Livery of Seisin was made to y^{e} Gentlemen of New Haven by y^{e} s^{d} Indian Sachem of this Tract of Land being eight miles from N haven East River eastward and extending into y^{e} north to a certain tree marked by y^{e} said Indian sachem (w^{c} tree is about a mile north of Pilgrims harbour.)"

Pilgrims Harbour was a territory of considerable extent and deeds early in the 18th century locate lands fully half a mile north of where South Colony St. crosses Harbor brook (just east of the office of Lyon & Billard Co.) as in Pilgrims Harbor. If the territory was indicated in the above petition rather than the ford or crossing, then New Haven's purchase of the Indians must have extended to a point a little distance north of where Colony street is crossed by the Meriden, Waterbury and Connecticut River railroad.

A few words as to the extent of the territory called by the name of Meriden. Mr. Alfred Andrews in his Genealogy and Ecclesiastical History of New Britain[1] says: "This locality at the the 'south eastern boundary of ffarmington' called above 'Great Swamp' had an early English name, which seems to have been abandoned for this of 'Great Swamp,' viz. Meridun, Meridan or Meridon, a name finally given 1725 to the present town of Meriden to take the place of 'Pilgrims Harbor.' But to settle the question of the old name to this locality I quote from a deed of Captain Daniel Clark, of Windsor, to Jonathan Gilbert, dated 22 April, 1672, of 300 acres of land (forty of which was to be meadow, by grant of the colony to S[d] Clark) lying, situate, and laid out at a place called Moridan where Jonathan Gilbert's farm is & bounded *partly* on the Mattabesick River where it may be allowed of the town of Farmington" "This deed is in possession of the Gilbert family living 1867 on the same farm said above to be owned by Jonathan Gilbert previous to 1644" (1664).

Now this farm stated to be still in possession of the Gilbert family is about one mile northeast of the railroad station in Berlin on what is known as Christian Lane. The very ancient brick house is still in existence, built probably by Ebenezer, son of Jonathan Gilbert. The first church of Great Swamp parish was located several hundred feet south of it and this whole locality was known as Great Swamp parish. It is fully four miles north of Jonathan Gilbert's "Meriden Farm" as we know it. Had he been in possession of these two farms and the land between he would have owned several thousand acres in the vicinity when he died in 1682. The best judge of what he owned was Mr. Gilbert himself. In his will, dated 1674, he says, "I give to my son Nathaniell Gilbert my farme at Meriden with all the houses and land thereto belonging, I give to my son Ebenezer Gilbert & his heires forever all that three hundred acres of land I bought of Capt. Daniel Clark in Farmington Bownds with all priviledges thereunto belonging & also that purchase of land I bought of Messaccup, commonly called & known by name of Pagon Chaumischaug."[2] In the inventory the Meriden Farm is valued at £110 and Pagon Chaumischaug at £120. This shows that Mr. Gilbert owned two distinct and separate farms—one at or called Meriden, and the other on Christian Lane in Berlin where stands the brick house built by Ebenezer Gilbert and called by the Indian name. Mr. Andrews was misled by the fact that Daniel Clark was conveying two separate tracts of land in the same deed, into believing that both tracts were one and bore the name of Meriden, and the mistake was a very natural one.

That two separate and distinct tracts were granted to Daniel Clark is proved by the following extracts from the Colonial Records of Connecticut. On March

1 Page 17.

2 Dr. Trumbull was unable to give the meaning of these Indian words.

13, 1661-62 "There is granted to Secy Daniel Clark & John Moor the number of 400 acres of land upon y^e^ forementioned termes whereof 80 acres of meadow w^ch^ is to be divided between them and if it can not be found together they have liberty to seek it out severally." On Oct. 12, 1665, "The secretary hath granted unto him an augmentation to his former grant to y^e^ sum of one hundred acres of upland and he hath liberty to take it up for his meadow the remainder of the meadow that is not taken up at Jonathan Gilbert's farme if it be there to be had with an hundred acres of upland adjoyening and the rest to make up his former grant at some place upon Mattabeseck River where he can find it free from those limitations inserted in his former grant." What Mr. Clark did was to take up 120 acres adjoining Mr. Gilbert's Meriden Farm and the balance elsewhere. This is proved by Farmington land records Vol. 1, page 50, where it reads as follows: "Land in Farmington belonging to Mr. Jonathan Gilbert & to his heires forever in y^e^ jurisdiction of Conecticut and county of Hartford, viz. one p'sell which he bought of Captin Daniell Clark Lying and being about Cold spring in y^e^ roade from Wethersfield to New Haven containing sixe score acres butting p'tly on Mr. Gilbords owne land given him by y^e^ country and p'tly on comon land to y^e^ south, to y^e^ east neare to the roade aforesaid & to y^e^ west and the north on comon land."

"One p'sell more contayning nighne[1] score acres which was allso bought of Captin Daniell Clarke lying & being about the branches of Metabesit River butting to y^e^ north p'tty on comon land & p'tty on p'ticuler lots. To y^e^ south on p'ticuler mens lots and to y^e^ west on p'ticuler lots now belonging to farmingtowne & to y^e^ east on comon land belonging to Farmingtowne."

That these tracts were not contiguous is proved by the boundaries.

To put it in modern English,Mr. Gilbert bought of Sec'y Clark 120 acres which adjoined his Meriden farm near Cold Spring and 180 acres on the branches of the Mattabesitt River—a separate and distinct tract—making 300 acres in all, and all conveyed in the one deed which Mr. Andrews said was in the possession of the Gilbert family living in Christian Lane in 1867.[2] This shows how the confusion or error arose of thinking that the name of Meriden was used to describe the territory afterwards called the Great Swamp. The words Cold Spring identify the locality of the first or 120 acres for that name was used some time before the recorded use of Meriden to describe the territory within two or three miles of our famous spring near the poorhouse. In the deed quoted by Mr. Andrews the quantity of land conveyed was mentioned as 300 acres: On the Farmington records it is given as "sixe score acres" and "nighne score acres"; exactly the same amount. The writer has deemed it wise

1 Actual form of the word on the records.
2 The Gilbert family live there no longer.

to give this explanation because it cannot be other than an error to say that "Meriden" ever went wandering away up into Berlin. The error is repeated in the Memorial History of Hartford County,[1] and Mr. Camp in his interesting work, the History of New Britain,[2] says what is equivalent to the same thing. As a matter of fact, Capt. Belcher did not buy Meriden Farm of Mr. Gilbert, but of the Gilbert heirs on Sept. 6, 1686, when they sold him "Meriden Farme being partly or all neere the comon roadway between Wethersfield and Wallingford, estimated at 350 acres." The deed is recorded in "Colony Records and Deeds" in Secretary of State's office. Curiously enough, the 120 acres adjoining, bought by Sec'y Clark went to Ebenezer Gilbert with Pagon Chaumischaug and was sold to Capt. Belcher on June 18, 1700, by Ebenezer as "6 score acres being about the Cold Spring bounded partly on Belchers farm & commons on south, east neare the Road west & north on commons." In the Connecticut Colonial Records[3] this distinction of the grants to Sec'y Clark being in two separate places is specifically mentioned as "three hundred acres of land for the same use, to be taken up *partly*[4] upon the branches of Mattabesitt River and *partly* upon the road from Wethersfield to New Haven at or neare a place called Cold Spring on the west side of a ridge of mountainous land comonly called or known by the name of the Lamentation Hills." Although it is not distinctly stated, it is probable that the 180 acres or "nighne" score acres adjoined the land called Pagon Chaumischaug bought by Mr. Gilbert of Messacup, lying in Christian Lane in the Great Swamp parish.

Jonathan Gilbert, in the record just quoted, is also said to have acquired the "native (Indian) right of the land adjoining his 470 acres, amounting in the whole to one thousand acres." This must have been land east of the 470 acres and east of Colony road, for when Andrew Belcher was granted the land from the east side of the farm to the top of Lamentation Mountain in 1703, it is stated as 280 acres only, whereas the land from the east side of Colony road to the top of mountain would have been considerably more than 280 acres. Lastly when the farm was sold by Andrew Belcher, Jr., in 1741-2, he conveyed 670 acres to Yale & Norton & 350 acres to Peck, Edwards & Peck, and the whole deed is of land in Wallingford bounds and is only recorded on Wallingford land records.

1 Vol. II., pp. 278-279.
2 P. 27.
3 Vol. IV., p. 450.
4 Italics are not in records.

CHAPTER IV.

The origin of the name of Meriden has for years been a subject of more or less interest to many of the residents of this town, and several theories have been advanced as to the derivation of the word.

One hypothesis urged, and which seems to be accepted as satisfactory by many, is that the old tavern or inn situated in that part of the town which first bore the name was a place of so much carousing and merriment that the house soon became known as the "Merry-den," hence Meriden. This attempt to explain the name reminds one of the effort of the school boy to translate the first three words of Virgil's Aeneid, "Arma virumque cano," by the astounding rendering "Man with a dog in his arms." The boy was able to advance the argument that "Arma" means "arms," "virum" is a man, and "cano" is much like "canis," a dog. The advocates of this theory also show ignorance of the character of our first Connecticut settlers. A very grave and austere people they were, and had they for one moment suspected that a house of entertainment of such repute was within their borders, they would have considered it as the headquarters of the Devil, and would have proceeded to demolish the house and drive the proprietor out of the colony.

Again, it has been suggested that the name is a corruption of the word "Meridian." Some time ago one of our local papers printed an extract from Bradley's Register for the year 1847, reading as follows:

"Its name (Meriden) is probably a corruption of the word Meridian, the township being equidistant from the two semi-capitals, Hartford and New Haven—from Hartford seventeen miles and from New Haven seventeen miles."

That meridian means "equidistant" is probably news to all our readers. As every one knows, meridian is an astronomical or geographical term; but when used in a non-technical sense it indicates culmination. Moreover, the farm to which the name was first applied is not equidistant from Hartford and New Haven; it is about sixteen miles from the former city and twenty miles from the latter. This farm, now sometimes called the Belcher Farm, was granted to Jonathan Gilbert, of Hartford, Aug. 28, 1661, and a full account of it has been given in a previous chapter. See pages 15-16.

Just when the name of Meriden was applied to the locality, we do not know. The first recorded use of the name was in a deed of land to Edward Higbey, dated Oct. 14th, 1664, which has already been given in a previous chapter. It

is a well known fact that almost every township name in New England was taken from England. Names of rivers, lakes, and mountains are frequently Indian in their origin; but the names of settlements seldom have but one derivation, and that is the mother country of the colonists. Cotton Mather says:

"For as there are few of our towns but what have their names sake in England, so the reason why most of our towns are called what they are is because the chief of the first inhabitants would thus bear up the names of the particular places there from whence they came."[1]

Danbury, Norwich, Hartford, Windsor, Wallingford, Milford, Stratford, Durham, and a host of others are all familiar names on the map of England. Meriden also appears on the map of England. In the "History of Wallingford, Meriden and Cheshire,"[2] it is stated:

"There cannot be a shadow of a doubt but that Mr. Belcher gave the name, and that it was taken from Meriden, Warwickshire Co., England. In the parish church at Meriden in England are deposited the remains of the Belcher family for many generations. The resemblance of the valley in which our town is situated, with the stone house or inn, with the town in England and other associations doubtless suggested to him the propriety of giving the name to his tract."

Dr. Perkins, in his Historical Sketches, also suggests the same derivation. And, indeed, the inference was a natural one, and without any other facts to guide one it would be reasonable to conclude that the matter was settled and that Meriden was surely called after the village of the same name in Warwickshire, England.

Unfortunately, however, the theory will not stand when a careful investigation is made. In the first place, Mr. Belcher did not name the farm. At the time of the first recorded use of the name, viz. 1664, he was a boy, living in Cambridge, Mass., and it was not until 1670, at the age of 22, that he married Mr. Gilbert's daughter, Sarah, and not until 1682 or after the death of Mr. Gilbert did he acquire an interest in Meriden Farm. Moreover, the Belcher family in question did not come from Meriden in Warwickshire. The home of the family previous to emigration was in London and Danbury, Essex county.[3]

The writer has made a careful search in the parish register of Meriden in Warwickshire and not a name can be found in it similar to that of any one of our early settlers and there is not a Belcher buried in the parish church; and there is no topographical similarity between our Meriden and the one in Warwickshire for the village over the water lies in a flat valley about half a mile wide with gently sloping hills around. It is embraced in the territory of the forest of Arden, famous as one of the haunts of Robin Hood.

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1 Magnalia, Ed. 1820, Vol. I., p. 83.
2 pp. 159-160.
3 N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. XXVII., pp. 239-240.

A few years ago, while reading a book called "England, Picturesque and Descriptive," by Joel Cook, the following singular paragraph was noticed. The Parish Church Register of Dorking, Surrey Co., among other curious entries, records the christening in 1562 of a child, whose fate is stated in these words:

"Who, scoffing at thunder, standing under a beech was stroke to death, his clothes stinking with a sulphurous stench, being about the age of twenty years or thereabouts, at Mereden House."

Naturally, it was at once concluded that there must be a locality near Dorking called "Mereden." A resort to the maps failed to show such a place, but later a careful examination of a section of the ordinance survey of Surrey Co., England, with the aid of a strong reading glass, revealed a place about three miles south of Dorking, called Meriden Farm. The coincidence was striking. Here was the very name by which Mr. Gilbert's farm was known two hundred and thirty years ago. This English farm is in the civil parish of Dorking, and lies in a valley of the same name; it is not a village. It was some time before any definite information could be gained. A search through the pages of Manning & Bray's History of Surrey furnished the following meagre facts.

"In the Borough and Maner(sic) of Westcote is a vale called Mereden, commencing between Cold Harbour and Boar Hills, in which is a Farm of the same name belonging to Abbotts Hospital in Guildford and in a wood or coppice belonging to this Farm is a spring called Meg's Well, the water of which is of great beauty and uncommon coldness."

The writer, when in London a few years ago, easily persuaded himself that it was a duty that he owed to his native town to go down to Dorking and see what sort of a place Meriden Farm was. He had previously corresponded with a Mr. Alfred Mitchell, in whose charge was the care of this farm, and so on a beautiful day in spring, when the hawthorn hedges were bursting into leaf and the tender green of the English meadows was suffused with sunlight and bathed in a gentle haze, duty and inclination, assisted by the railway train, soon carried him over the twenty miles that separates Dorking and London, and placed him in the care of Mr. Mitchell. The farm is a part of the large estate of Mr. Robert Barclay, a wealthy London brewer, and Mr. Mitchell, his father and grandfather have been faithful stewards of the property of the Barclay family during nearly a hundred years; and singularly enough his aunt, Mrs. Arrowsmith (since deceased) was an inmate of the Curtis Home in Meriden, Connecticut, and was born on Mr. Barclay's estate. This fact and his natural courtesy led Mr. Mitchell to do everything in his power to assist to a thorough acquaintance with Meriden Farm, and a tramp over the hills and through the vale to Cold Harbor just below, gave one a fair knowledge of the lay of the land and the appearance of the country. The topography is very similar to the valley in which lies our Meriden Farm, only it

is on a smaller scale, and the hills are not so grand and rugged as Lamentation Mt. and Hanging Hills. This valley in England is called by many the most beautiful in Surrey Co. It lies between parallel ranges of hills running north and south, that on the west rising gradually to an elevation of nearly one thousand feet. From its summit can be had a view over a beautiful country extending to the sea twenty miles away. It is called Leith Hill. There are two stone cottages in the valley which is well wooded and now used as a game preserve. A mile to the south beyond Leith Hill lies the hamlet of Cold Harbor. Less than a mile to the north lies Wotton House, a fine old estate once the home of John Evelyn, the celebrated botanist and diarist of the reign of Charles II. Here he passed many years of his life and one of his favorite walks was through Meriden Farm to the top of Leith Hill. The estate is still in possession of the Evelyn family. Near the entrance to the vale as one comes from Dorking is a small elegant mansion once the property of Daniel Malthus, and here was born and lived Thomas Robert Malthus, the scientific expounder of the principals of population, and frequently called Population Malthus. In the woods on the side of the hill is a spring that is celebrated the country round on account of the great coldness of the water. It is called Meg's well, but this is a comparatively recent name as time is counted in England; a century and a half ago it was one of the haunts of a witch-like creature and many curious legends are told of the woman until like Norna in Scott's Pirate the character of Meg is more mythical than real. The Vale of Meriden in Dorking cannot boast of a single historical event. During all the centuries it has rested in peaceful loveliness; for a long time the farm was in the possession of Abbott's Hospital in Guildford, not many miles away, an endowment gift from Archbishop Abbott, who founded the institution. But about five years ago it was bought by Mr. Barclay whose estate quite surrounded it. Dorking itself has had nearly as quiet an existence as the Farm of Meriden and we should hardly know of it were it not for the peculiar breed of poultry with five claws which originated here, and that Dickens chose it as the scene of some of the adventures of the immortal Weller family. Here was located the "Markis of Granby" where Mr. Weller, Sr., lived and smoked his pipe and practiced patience, while the "Shepherd" imbibed hot pineapple rum and water until Tony Weller could stand it no longer and the Rev. Stiggins was ignominously kicked out and ducked in the horse trough in front of the inn; and here the father imparted to Samivel the oracular information that "Vidth and Visdom alvays grows together." About three miles beyond Cold Harbor lies the parish of Ockley. The Rev. Henry Whitfield, who with his flock settled the town of Guilford, Conn., was from 1618 to 1638 rector of this parish. He was, of course, a clergyman of the Church of England at that time, but he had pronounced Puritan sympathies that finally induced him to leave the church and join the great Puritan migration across the

ocean. During his ministry in Ockley his home was a place of refuge for non-conformists in their trials and tribulations. The Rev. John Davenport of New Haven, the Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Hartford, and others frequently found refuge in his rectory,[1] and two of Mr. Whitfield's parishioners in Ockley came with him to Guilford, Conn., and many of his flock in this country were from Surrey Co., England. With the many striking resemblances between Meriden Farm, lying between Lamentation Mt. and Hanging Hills, and Meriden Farm in Surrey Co., England, does it take very much imagination to believe that some one of these men saw the likeness and gave the name to our farm? Both farms lie in pronounced valleys. In both cases the name was that of a farm and not of a town; each valley has a spring of uncommon coldness; each valley is screened by a lofty hill whence may be had a glimpse of the sea about twenty miles away. Another point of resemblance is that each has at the entrance to the valley a harbor. Ours is called Pilgrims' Harbor; the one in Surrey Co. is called Cold Harbor. Now it is a singular fact that these names are interchangeable. They both mean the same thing. The Century Dictionary gives the definition of Cold Harbor as "a protection at a wayside for travelers who are benighted or benumbed with cold." The term is not an uncommon one in England. Now as to the origin of the name of our Pilgrim Harbor, one thing is absolutely sure and certain—it was not so called because the regicides or judges of King Charles I. found protection and shelter on the banks of our stream when pursued by the king's officers. The letter from John Davenport to Governor Winthrop dated 30th day of 8th month, 1660, and printed on page 37 of this book, proves this conclusively, for at that date the regicides had not left Boston and did not come to Connecticut until the following spring.[2] Moreover it will be observed that the name of Pilgrims Harbor was well known at the date of this letter. It was written to a man in Hartford by a New Haven man and there is no attempt to explain its location, so that the name must have been in use for some time. Dr. Ezra Stiles, president of Yale College for many years, born 1727 and died 1795, was responsible either for the preservation or birth of this tradition[3] and it is one of those stories that will never die no matter how often it is shown to be entirely unsupported by facts. Singularly enough Dr. Stiles' diary, lately published, gives a clue to the very fact that we are looking for. Under date May 7, 1793, he says "Rode to Meriden and loged at Capt. Webb's, aet 86, wife 82"; on the 8th follows, "Tradition at Meriden and about here (Hartford) Pilgrim's Harbor, so named from two men stopt here till they could make a float. Afterwards Public built a shed for Pilgrims caught here by high Freshes.

1 Steiner's Hist. of Guilford, Conn., p. 15.
2 Palfrey's Hist. of New England, Vol. II., p. 499. or any other history treating of the regicides.
3 Stiles' Hist. of the Three Judges, p. 108.

Mr. Meriam[1] aet say 35 lives at the Bridge—intelligent—tells the common story —2 pilgrims—but nothg of Regicides—rather persons travellg fr. N. H. to Hartfd." The next year (1794) Dr. Stiles' History of the Three Judges was published and so notwithstanding the information he had picked up in Meriden and Hartford, he started this story about the Regicides and Pilgrims Harbor Brook—a story that will always have perennial youth and like the brook will go on forever. Dr. Stiles tells the story in this way: "there is a tradition of their making a lodgment at Pilgrims Harbor, so called from them, being twenty miles from New Haven at a place since called Meriden, half way between New Haven and Hartford." The Rev. Mr. Perkins, in his Historical Sketches, repeats the story but Dr. Davis in his History of Wallingford shows that there can be no truth to the tradition. Now note the similarity of the meaning of Cold Harbor as given in the Century Dictionary and that of Pilgrims Harbor as found existing in Meriden over a hundred years ago and stated in Dr. Stiles' diary. They both mean a refuge for travelers by the wayside—not an inn or a tavern, but simply a shelter. There must have been other places of like character in Connecticut during those days of sparsely settled country, but to one only was the name of Pilgrims Harbor given. So is it not fair for the sake of argument to admit that the naming of Pilgrims Harbor was, like the naming of Hartford or Windsor—a calling of localities by the old names of the mother country, and that the original form was Cold Harbor but that it was changed to Pilgrims Harbor to avoid confusion with Cold Spring only a couple of miles away?

From a topographical point of view there are again striking coincidences. Cold Harbor, in Surrey Co., lies not far from the entrance to the vale in which is nestled Meriden Farm. Pilgrims Harbor here is not far from the entrance to the valley in which lies our Meriden Farm. Back of Cold Harbor in Surrey Co. to the northwest is an escarpment or steep hill very like the sudden rise to the northwest that one would observe standing at the corner of Colony and Main streets if the Meriden House and other buildings did not hide the view of the elevation crowned by Prospect and Mt. Pleasant streets and Washington Heights. Two or three miles to the west we see the heights of West Peak range; a mile or two to the west of Cold Harbor is the elevation known as Leith Hill. Besides these remarkable coincidences of names and topography we have learned that a number of people in this colony had lived or visited near Cold Harbor and Meriden Farm in Surrey Co. To the names of Thomas Hooker, John Davenport and Henry Whitfield, we may perhaps add the name of Edward Higbee, whose Indian deed, printed on pages 17-18 of this book, contains the first recorded use of the word Meriden in this colony. The records of the parish church in Dorking show

1 Benjamin Merriam, son of Benjamin Merriam, who died in 1807, and owned the Meriden House corner and east side of Colony street also. His house stood on site of the Meriden House.

that in 1602 a John Higbey was living near that town. Savage, in his genealogical dictionary, suggests that Edward Higbee was the son of a John Higbee. Of course this does not prove that the two men named John Higbee were one and the same person, but in this first recorded use of the word, Meriden, it is spelled Merideen, which denotes an intimate acquaintance with the correct and early spelling, as will be seen later, at a time when others in the colony were writing it Meridin, Meridan and even Meridon. It is very likely that this Indian deed was drawn up by Higbee. Mr. Gilbert in his will dated 1676, written by himself, wrote the word Meridin—that is he spelled it as he thought it was pronounced. Mr. Gilbert was not from Surrey Co. in all probability. With so many individuals in this colony who were acquainted with this particular locality in Surrey Co. it is not difficult to believe that the resemblance to be seen in Connecticut on the highway between Hartford and New Haven was sooner or later recognized.

Necessarily the question is incapable of an absolute solution. But the coincidences in names and topography is remarkable and one may surely be pardoned for believing or trying to believe that our Meriden Farm took its name from Meriden Farm, Surrey Co., England. It is a curious fact that the country folk who live around our English namesake, display the same tendency to explain the origin of the name by its evident sound as their Yankee cousins in Connecticut. The story goes that 200 or 300 years ago there was a cave in the vicinity where smugglers were in the habit of resorting with their ill gotten goods to make a fair division and to celebrate their exploits by a carousal and hilarious merry-making—hence Merry-den. When Mr. Barclay bought the farm he acquired the old deeds that went with the property and the earliest one was dated in the twelfth century, over seven hundred years ago and the form of the name was then Merrideen.

And now it is time to ask the question. What does 'Meriden' mean? What is the derivation of the word? Will etymology teach us its primitive signification?

The naming of towns and localities in England was an entirely different process from that employed in New England. Here, the forefathers borrowed the names of Indians, or else they endeavored to quiet the longings of their homesick hearts by using the words made familiar to them in the Mother Country. In England, however, names of places were not borrowed; they were indigenous, and grew up with the people, so to speak. In every case a name embodies some local peculiarity of physical aspect, or perpetuates some historical fact. DeQuincy says[1] "they are not inventions of any active faculty, but were passive depositions from a real impression upon the mind." Dean Trench has written of words as "fossil poetry" and "fossil history," and the comparison is fitting. Almost every town name in England illustrates this simile; thus, Boston, in Lincolnshire, was

1 Essay on Style.

anciently "Botulfeston," or "Botulphs town," preserving the fact that a monastery was built by him in 654, around which a town grew up; Oxford was "Oxenford," and was just what the name implies; Windsor, centuries ago was "Windelsora," from early English "Windel," to wind and "ora," a shore,—that is, a winding shore, referring to the course of the Thames at that point; Rochester was ages ago "Hrofe," a man's name, and "ceaster," a fortified place,—i. e., "Hrofeceaster"; Wallingford, one of the most ancient towns in England, on the Thames a little below Oxford, was by the Britons called "Guallhen," that is "Old Fort;" the Saxons added "ford" to it on account of the crossing of the Thames at that place, and it became "Guallhenforde," that is, the Crossing by the Old Fort; but the curious lingual inclination of the Saxons to change a "g" of a Romance tongue to a "w" (as perhaps best illustrated in the French "Guillaume" which became "William" in the Saxon mouth), corrupted the word to "Wallengaforde," which easily became the modern Wallingford.[1] And the illustrations might be extended indefinitely.

The word "Meriden" is no exception to this general rule, and from it may be extracted a little fossil poetry. The prefix, Meri, Merri or Mere is undoubtedly a corruption of Merry or Merrie. The definition of "Merry" as used to-day is sportive, playful, or mirthful, but its early meaning was decidedly different. Perhaps the best illustration of the distinction will be found in the following examples:

In the Psalter of the Book of Common Prayer (which is the same as the Book of Psalms in the Great Bible of Henry VIII., published about 1541), the second verse of the 81st Psalm reads as follows:

"Take the psalm, bring hither the tabret, the *merry* harp with the lute";

but in the Bible of 1611, commonly known as the King James Version, the same verse is as follows:

"Take a psalm and bring hither the timbrel, the *pleasant* harp with the psaltry."

During the time between the two translations, the character of "merry" has changed and no longer means "pleasant."

Another example; an early English song runs thus:

> "*Merry* sung the monks within Ely
> That Cnute King rowed thereby;
> Row Knights near the land
> And hear we these monks' song."

A Latin translation of this song made at about the same date renders "Merry" as "dulce," and the modern translation of "dulce" is unquestionably "sweetly."

In 1528 Sir Thomas More wrote his wife as follows:

"I pray you be with my children and your household *merry* in God." He undoubtedly wished her to understand him as bidding her be cheerful. No one

1 Camden's Britannia, Gibson's edition, 1695, p. 140.

would for an instant think he wished her to be sportive or gay or mirthful in God.

It is difficult to realize to how great an extent our language has changed during the last four or five centuries. Had a man of the time of Chaucer been asked to describe a sweet and amiable girl, he would doubtless have spoken of her as a "Merry Wench." What self-respecting young maid of to-day would submit to such a classification? Illustrations might be added indefinitely, but enough have been employed to demonstrate that the early meaning of "Merry" or "Merrie" was cheerful, sweet or pleasant.

The suffix "den" is very common in Surrey, and, indeed, in all parts of England. Not far from the Vale of Meriden are Oakdeane, Morden and Cotmanden. A beautiful country seat near Dorking was called, in the time of John Evelyn, Dipden, but the present proprietor has revived the ancient form of the name, and it is now Deepdene. The place is appropriately named, for it is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills. This suffix "den" was anciently dene, or dean, and was the early English term for valley, or vale.

With the information we now have, what does Meriden mean? "Meri" pleasant, "den" vale or valley; that is, Pleasant Valley.

There were, or are, several places of this same name in England. In the time of Edward I., i. e. the 13th century, there was a village in Shropshire called "Meryden."[1] Camden, in his "Britannia" written in the 16th century, mentions a village called "Merival," north of Coventry. The same book speaks of "Merifield" as a "delightful meadow." There is to-day a "Merrivale" in Devonshire. Sir Wm. Dugdale, in his Antiquities of Warwickshire, states that Meriden, near Coventry, is derived from Mire-dene, meaning a muddy valley. Even that form would not prove his definition correct, for one of the early forms of "merrie" was "mirie" or "myrie." We know, however, that etymology in the 17th century was anything but a science, and we find that long before his book was written the place was recorded as "Meryden," and every one who has visited the place describes it as a pleasant valley.[2] Human nature is always the same, and we still find evidences of this desire to describe one's residence as attractive. Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and many other states, each has its Pleasant Valley which may be found on the map. Did we still use the primitive language of our remote forefathers, these places would all be Meridens or Merivals. We have learned that "Meriden is the loveliest vale in Surrey," and Surrey is one of the fairest of all the counties of England, full of picturesque hills and dales. Have we not, then, extracted the fossil poetry from "Meriden," and may we not safely conclude that it means Pleasant Valley?

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1 Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, Vol. I., p. 128.

2 The writer has a map printed in the 18th century, in which the name appears as Mereden, the same form as we find first recorded for Surrey.

It may be urged that after all it is not a matter of great moment that we should know the origin of the name of Meriden. The writer as gracefully as possible acknowledges the force of the criticism. The only apology he has to offer for the great length to which this chapter has grown is that he is a son of the soil, and anything that relates to the early history of Meriden appeals to a particularly susceptible part of his mental makeup.

NOTE—Since this sketch was put in print, the writer has come into possession of a little book entitled "Notes on Staffordshire Place Names," by W. H. Duignan, published in London, 1902. The preface states that Rev. Walter William Skeat (professor of Anglo-Saxon in Cambridge university and probably the greatest living authority on Early English) and Mr. W. H. Stevenson, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, are in a measure sponsors for the scholarship of the little book, for their advice and suggestions have been constantly sought and given. The arrangement of the work is that of a dictionary, and the author has this to say under the word "Merridale, an ancient estate of 1½ m. S. W. of Wolverhampton. The mediaeval forms are *Muridene.* Meriden, in Warwickshire was *Myridene.* (Probably A. S. *Myrige,* pleasant, sweet, delightful *Merry,* and *dene* valley. This would account for the i in Muridene, W. H. S.)" An old meaning of "Merry, was as stated. 'Merry,' England; the 'Merry month of May,' mean sweet, pleasant, not jocund or mirthful."

The initials W. H. S. indicate that the brackets enclose the note of W. H. Stevenson.

Here then we have another form of Meriden ending in "*dale*" that has not been mentioned in the foregoing pages, and also as good an endorsement as could be asked, for the theory that the writer of this chapter advances, *viz.* that the ancient meaning of Meriden was pleasant valley.

CHAPTER V.

The story of Meriden Farm has now been told and its romantic chapter is closed, for the last of the Belchers has shaken its dust from his feet and henceforth its annals deal only with the quiet and uneventful life of families compelled to get their living from its soil by the sweat of their brows and an unremitting struggle with the rugged conditions of rural life in New England during the eighteenth century. To go back in imagination to those days of simple living when nature was almost man's master, instead of servant; to picture to ourselves the isolation of life, the lack of communication with the outside world, the dearth of incident except the grinding ceaseless toil required to subdue a country of unlimited forests and unknown possibilities, require a power that no one possesses except in a limited degree.

Life could not have been attractive from our point of view. There were few amusements and scarcely any inventions to add to the comforts of life, and the grinding toil and struggle with a barren soil amid rocky hills left little chance to cultivate the amenities of social intercourse.

"The machinery of production showed no radical difference from that familiar to ages long past. The Saxon families of the eighth century enjoyed most of the comforts known to Saxon families of the eighteenth century."[1]

Life under such conditions is, to us of the twentieth century, almost inconceivable. But the result, however, was a race of men and women of rugged constitution, and indomitable will; this combination influenced by the religious training and belief to which they were accustomed produced a condition of life with which we are utterly out of sympathy. They cannot have been an agreeable people and many doubtless would be ready to subscribe to the sentiment. "Let us thank God for having given us such ancestors; and let each successive generation thank Him not less fervently for being one step from them in the march of ages."

The conditions for telling the story of Meriden are not the most felicitous, for until 1806, this territory was only a suburb to Wallingford, second even to Cheshire, which was made a separate township in 1780, twenty-six years earlier than our successful attempt to go without leading strings.

It is not proposed to tell the story of Wallingford except so far as may be absolutely essential to the proper understanding of events in the parish of Meriden.

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1 Henry Adams Hist. of U. S., Vol. I., p. 16.

The colony of New Haven was absorbed by that of Connecticut in 1665, and, although the attempt was made to heal the wounded sensibilities of the people by making New Haven twin capital with Hartford, the result was received by many of the inhabitants with disgust, and good John Davenport left the town in sorrow and took up his residence in Boston.

By 1669 many of the first settlers of New Haven were dead and a new generation had grown up. In that year began the movement which resulted in the settlement of Wallingford, and in 1670 the foundations had been laid and a new town had been born in the colony.

At a court of election held at Hartford May 12th, 1670, the following vote was passed: "This court haveing been moved to state the bownds of the New Village that is settled upon the playne as you goe to New Haven, doe grant that their bownds shall com from the Brook at the south end of the great playne to the northward tenn miles; and from the said [Brook] sowthward to Brandford bownds, and on each side the river five miles; that is five miles on the east side and five miles on the west side the river, provided that the sayd village be carryed on and made a plantation wthout any relation or subordination to any other towne and provided the bownds hereby granted to the sayd village doe not prejudice any bownds formerly granted to any plantation or perticuler person, or doe not extend to the north any further then wh[ere] the old road to New Haven goeth over Pilgrimes Harbour. The Court orders that the plantation on the playne in the Road to New Haven, be called Wallingford."

Thus at the very birth of Wallingford the old limitation of the northern boundary by the Pilgrims' Harbor ford comes up; the same limitation which had been a bone of contention between New Haven and Connecticut Colonies ten years previously. It is difficult to understand why Wallingford should not have been allowed to extend its bounds up to those of Farmington for this limitation left a territory three miles wide, which was not a part of any township.

The names of those who subscribed to the plantation agreement of Wallingford are as follows:

Samuel Street	Samuel Munson	Eleazer Peck	John Hall
Nathaniel Merriman	John Harriman	Samuel Potter	Joseph Ives
Abraham Dowlittle	John Mosse	John Peck	Joseph Benham
William Johnson	Jeremiah How	Francis Heaton	Simon Tuttle
Benjamin Lewis	Daniel Hogge	John Brockett	Samuel Browne
Sam'l Whitehead	Thomas Hall	Zachariah How	Samuel Cook
Eliasaph Preston	Thomas Curtis	John Miles	Samuel Miles
Eleazer Holt	John Beech	Nathaniel How	Nathan Andrews
Samuel Andrews	Jehiel Preston	Thomas Yale	
Daniel Sherman	Samuel Hall	John Ives	

All these men with the exception of Thomas Curtis, Thomas Beach and Benjamin Lewis (who were from Stratford) were residents of New Haven. This shows what a distinctively New Haven movement was the settlement of Wallingford and possibly indicates why the court of election inserted in the vote of May 12th, the precautionary clause "provided that the sayd village be carryed on and made a plantation wthout any relation or subordination to any other towne," and explains why it was first proposed to call the new settlement New Haven village.

But when, in the same year, the house lots were assigned, the names of several in the previous list are missing and the record of assignment reads as follows:

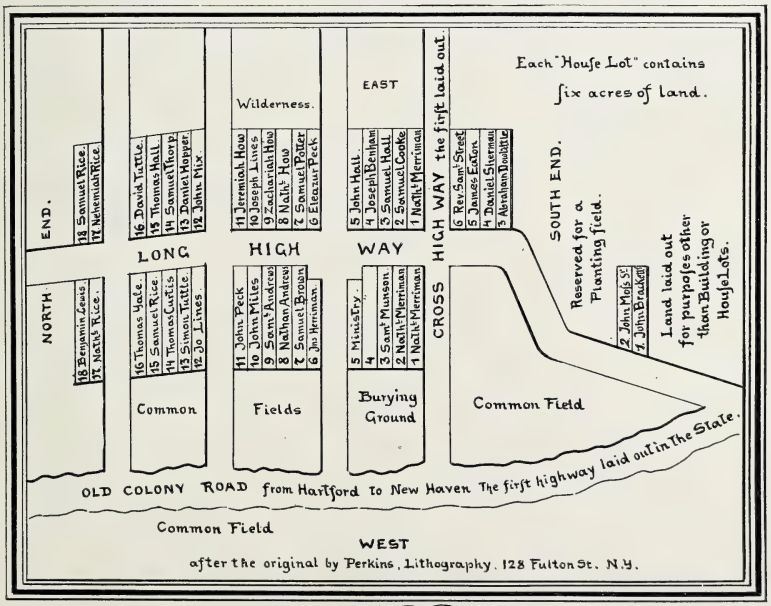
A record of y^{e} house lots in y^{e} town of Wallingford as they were first situated upon y^{e} hill on y^{e} east side of y^{e} Great Playne commonly called New Haven playne and of y^{e} order of place and quantity of acres to each person allotted for his house lot by order ——— after some land was left for other use, y^{e} first house lot for John Brockett Senior 6 acres; y^{e} 2^{d} for John Mosse Senior 6 acres: next to that a piece of land was left for a planting field. Next to that y^{e} 3rd house lot for Abraham Dowlittle Senior 6 acres; 4th house lot for Daniel Sherman 6 acres y^{e} 5th house lot for James Eaton:[1] y^{e} 6th house lot for Samuel Street 6 acres. These 6 lots having some land lieing at y^{e} end of y^{m} towards Whartons Brook it is agreed by y^{e} Comitte y^{t} it be distributed to y^{e} aforesaid persons as a part of their other outlands, hieways excepted. Next to y^{e} aforesaid 6 house lots it is ordered by y^{e} aforesaid first comitte y^{t} there shall be a hieway cross y^{e} hill from east to west of 6 rods broad and from these a long hieway of 6 rods broad on top y^{e} hill to run northward and on each side of it two ranges of house lots at 6 acres to a lot, one range on y^{e} one side eastward and one range on y^{e} other side westward and these lots to be distributed to persons as follows: y^{e} first lot on y^{e} east side and y^{e} first lot on y^{e} west side of y^{e} long hieway; and on y^{e} north side of y^{e} aforesaid hieway: each of y^{m} 6 acres is by s^{d} commite granted to Nath^{l} Merriman Senior: y^{e} one 6 acres for his house lot y^{e} other 6 acres on y^{e} other side with respect to other outlands as to y^{e} other persons before mentioned. Next to these on y^{e} east side of y^{e} afores^{d} long hieway y^{e} 2^{d} house lots to Sam^{l} Cooke 3rd to Sam^{l} Hall 4th to Joseph Benham 5th to John Hall. At y^{e} end of these on y^{e} west side of y^{e} aforesaid long hieway 2^{d} Nath^{l} Merriman Jr. 3rd to Sam^{l} Munson 4th to ———————— 5th y^{e} ministry.

a hieway on y^{e} east side		a hieway on y^{e} west side	
6	Eleazur Peck	6	John Harriman
7	Samuel Potter	7	Samuel Brown
8	Nathaniel How	8	Nathan Andrews

1 Perhaps Heaton.

9	Zachariah How	9	Samuel Andrews
10	Joseph Eives.	10	John Miles
11	Jeremiah How	11	Joseph Peck
	a hieway		a hieway
12	John Mix	12	John Eives
13	Daniel Hopper	13	Simon Tuttle
14	Samuel Thorp	14	Thomas Curtis
15	Thomas Hall	15	Samuel Royce
16	David Tuttle	16	Thomas Yale
	a hieway		a hieway
17	Nehemiah Royce	17	Nathaniel Royce
18	Samuel Royce	18	Benjamin Lewis

Through the courtesy of Rev. J. E. Wildman, of Wallingford, a map of the village is here inserted. This map is a copy, not a facsimile, of a very ancient one



Original Plan
of the
Town of Wallingford.
with the name of each owner of the House Lots as distributed by New Haven Committee
A.D. 1670.
Copied from the Records.

brought to Mr. Joseph P. Beach, of Cheshire, by Elihu Yale, in 1852, to be transferred to stone and lithographed. Consequently the handwriting is Mr. Beach's. The two names, Jo. Lines and John Lines should have been Jo. Eives and John Eives. The middle name of Mr. Beach is Perkins, under which name he was then running his lithographing establishment in New York City. The original map has disappeared from the office of the town clerk in Wallingford. James Eaton, Daniel Sherman and David Tuttle did not finally join the plantation, their lots being taken by John Beach, Elisaph Preston and Eleazer Holt respectively. Mr. Beach thinks the words "Old Colony road," "long highway," "cross highway the first laid out," "common fields," "wilderness" and "planting field," etc., were on the original map, but to the writer this seems doubtful.

So the town began with all the planters settled in a compact little village with home lots of six acres each, arranged on a street at the top of the hill—the present Main street. At the south end were grouped the elderly men, while at the northern end were young men, several not then married. We can imagine what a busy community it must have been for some time: the building of houses, the laying out of streets, the clearing away of forests, the breaking of virgin soil under the plow, must have kept every member of the little town thoroughly occupied. Material of all kinds and household furniture and supplies were largely brought from New Haven in boats, for at this period the Quinnipiac river contained much more water than at present, as we will learn by subsequent records.

The first houses built were probably of very rude construction for none of this period have survived the destructive hand of time, while a number built fifty years later are still in very good condition and seem capable of lasting many years.

The town government having been organized, the home lots assigned and the houses built, the next question to engage the attention of the people was the distribution and division of lands for farms. The whole community was agricultural in its pursuits and the only source of wealth was the produce of the farms. The rank of a man in the distributions was proportioned on what he was able to pay in taxes, and divisions were made in lots or multiples of four, six and eight acres. Naturally, the older men were able to pay larger rates than the younger, and generally it will be found that those who received the largest allotments of land were the elder men of the town. These divisions of land remind one of the methods of a modern business corporation in distributing its surplus earnings among its stockholders. After the first division which assigned lands on the banks of New Haven East (now Quinnipiac) river, the planters seem to have been privileged to take up their allotments of land where they pleased providing they did not conflict with any previous grants or reservations; and the rights seem to have been inherited by descendants of the first planters in

addition to those they held as living inhabitants or land owners; so that frequently these inherited rights were sold to newcomers by those who had removed from the town. In other words, the original corporation of the town was kept alive by inheritance until all the vacant or unoccupied lands had been distributed, and a separate ledger or "original proprietors' book" was kept which gave a strict account of all such transactions. But no land owner was allowed to sell his land or future rights to a stranger until the character of the new comer had been thoroughly looked into and approved in town meeting. A man had the right to join the higher grade and receive a larger allotment of land by expressing his willingness to pay a bigger tax. On May 22, 1678, it was voted in town meeting that "a man of lower rank may take a higher rank by paying rates accordingly for the future, viz.: 20 shillings a year for 7 years provided they decide before next town meeting which if they do not 'then ye town will looke att themselves att liberty whether they will grant it or not'." The rate of taxes paid by those of the highest were double those of the lowest rank and one-third more than those of the middle rank and divisions of lands were based on these proportions. Frequently assignments of lands were made to persons who had moved to other towns, because they were descendants of the "ancient" or first planters. Sometimes lands were granted to particular individuals for meritorious service; as, for instance, service in wars; in other words, a pension. This was a cheap way to confer a gift that cost the giver little, and yet was of value to the recipient. Allotments were made to the minister simply because he was the minister. This added considerable to his income beyond what he received annually from his flock. This method of dividing lands seems to have been general throughout the colony of Connecticut. The following vote is illuminating and interesting:

"At a town metting in Wallingford february y^{e} 12 1712 Voated in town metting that y^{e} town look upon y^{e} several parsons whos names are upon record in several rank viz first 2^{d} and 3rd rank & thair hairs & assigns recorded in Ranks and order in y^{e} year 1672 are y^{e} sole proprietors of all y^{e} undivided Lands in Wallingford together with such other parsons as have formerly by y^{e} towns Leave & consent come into town one or other of these Ranks mentioned in y^{e} room of sundry parsons recorded in y^{e} above s^{d} ranks that went away from y^{e} town & lost y^{e} lots they had taken up; and tharupon y^{e} proprietors are to take y^{e} best methods they can in settling & securing the titels of all those parsons that formerly obtained grants or divitions of land from y^{e} town so that they may niver be molested and Disturbed in y^{e} possession of such lands when ever such parsons desir it."

The organization of the "Ancient Proprietors" was kept alive until the year 1803 when it formally released to the town all interest, right and title to the un-

divided lands, and then ceased to exist. The date was April 25. Probably all the land had been, by that time, distributed.

"'Race suicide" was not popular in those days in Wallingford, or elsewhere, and the record of vital statistics teem with the entries of births and marriages, and a family with ten children was only moderately large. Naturally the question of farms for the support of the present and the coming generations was one to engage the attention of the town, and the allotments of lands soon began to be taken up in what is now Meriden; and Cheshire also, for at that time, Wallingford bounds stretched not only as far north as where Colony street crosses Harbor Brook but extended away over into Prospect on the west, so that more than the whole of modern Cheshire was included in the township.

The first entry on the town records that refers to the territory of Meriden is a vote passed at a town meeting held Sept. 10, 1677, reading as follows: "That every planter now in seizin shall have according to their ranks 4 acres, 3 acres, 2 acres, of the choice land upon the river hopp ground land beginning at Pilgrims Harbour and what that place doth not afford they are to please themselves elsewheare." On Nov. 17, 1679, the record reads "Town grant to Nath[1] Royce, David Hall, Thomas Hall, Daniel Mix and Joseph Holt each 3 acres of land lying on east side of meadow called Dogs Misery by the southward branch of Pilgrims Harbor brook." At a meeting held Nov. 24, 1679, it was "granted to Nehemiah Royce, Isaac Curtis each 3 acres and Nathaniel How and Isaac Royce each 2 acres and all at dogs misery."

The question arises, where is Dogs' Misery? It is in the extreme eastern part of Meriden, south of the Middletown road and half a mile west of Black Pond. In going north on Paddock Ave., after passing the home of Rollin S. Ives, one comes to a road turning to the right and running northeast.[1] This grass-grown road is still called Misery Bar road and runs through the very heart of Dogs' Misery, a swamp even to this day, almost impenetrable with its growth of alders, briars, brambles, and trees. Perhaps not so swampy as it once was, but still an extremely unpleasant place for a woodland walk. The southern branch of Pilgrims' Harbor brook flowing north from Foster's pond passes through this swamp. The eastern branch flows from Black pond and joins the southern branch at Baldwin's pond. There is a tradition that when the country was first explored this swamp was under water because of the dams that had been built by the beavers. The story goes that after the beavers were all killed the dams were destroyed and the territory then became a hideous swamp, and a refuge for wild animals when pursued by men and dogs. No further explanation of the reason for the name is needed. Black pond was also a famous place for beavers. Mr. Erwin Beardsley, who lives in the old Crocker place on the Mid-

1 The Meriden directory has a map which indicates rural streets and lanes.

dletown turnpike, almost at the Middletown line, had occasion when a young man, to work on the shore of the pond and found in the black muck many short logs or heavy sticks still preserving the marks of the teeth of the beavers. Mr. Perkins also speaks of the beaver-gnawed logs in his Historical Sketches.[1] As already noted the whole territory of Meriden was famous for its game and was used by the Indians as a hunting ground. Many localities still preserve names indicative of this fact. Thus we have Cat Hole, in the northwestern part of the town; Cat Swamp, south of the junction of Charles street and Parker avenue; Deer Hill, now called Meeting House or Buckwheat Hill; Beaver Dam Brook, flowing south from the swamp north of the state fair grounds and also draining the swamp north of Kensington avenue and west of the railroad track; this swamp was once known as Wolf Swamp. Beaver Dam Brook is now usually called Sodom and runs under the Waterbury railroad bridge on West Main street. Then there was Cat Swamp on the road to Southington, and Beaver Pond, adjoining the Old Fly, on the borders of Berlin. But it was not for game that Meriden's early settlers desired these lots in the vicinity of Dogs' Misery. They seem to have been considered very choice and valuable bits of real estate and were only distributed in lots of two, three or four acres and were called "hopp lots." Every one of the planters had his "hopp lot" either in the neighborhood of Dogs' Misery or in the lowland bordering Harbor brook, south of West Main street, all the way to the Quinnipiac river. And on Wharton's brook and on other brooks in Wallingford there were "hopp" lots also. Mr. Perkins, so often quoted, says: "This 'hopp ground land' was that which produced the material for making hoops [hopps]. Such land, though swampy, was then the most valuable in the town. For in the dearth of a circulating medium and of means for purchasing all foreign produce, these hoops [and staves also] always found a great demand, and a ready sale in the West Indies. Of course, our farmers in trading with the New Haven merchants, found these hoop poles as useful as cash."

This seems a doubtful explanation for several reasons. First, hoops for barrels are always made from hickory and hickory does not grow in swamp ground, such as Dogs' Misery was and is. Again, those versed in such matters, say they do not know of any wood grown in swamp land that could be used for such purposes. Again, the word in the Wallingford records is invariably "hopp." Here, as elsewhere, during these early years the spelling is a fearful and wonderful phenomenon and one is prepared for almost any combination of letters to misrepresent a word. But after 1735 the penmanship in the records is excellent and frequently beautiful and the spelling good, and yet this word is still hop or hopp.

Waterbury and Wethersfield, and doubtless other towns, had their "hopp lands" and the use of the word in this same way is found in the Colonial Records

1 Page 11.

of Connecticut. If *hoop* had been intended, somewhere, somebody would have been found to give the right form to the word.[1] Consequently, one is forced to the belief that the word bore some relation to hops or the hop vine. Hops[2] must have been raised in the early days of the colony, for they are as indispensable in the making of bread as wheat itself, for bread without yeast or something to make it rise would have been the last resort of a desperate housewife. England for centuries, has been a great consumer of hops, and our early settlers, after using what was needed for bread-making and home-brewed beer, would have found a ready market for their surplus produce by selling it to New Haven to be shipped to England.[3] Consequently hop poles were needed and must have been in great demand. Hops are not grown in swampy or moist ground but hop poles are. A gentleman, now a resident of Meriden, whose boyhood was passed near Danbury, says that in those days hops were grown in large quantities in that locality and that the farmers in winter, when the ground was frozen solidly, invariably resorted to the swamps to cut poles for use the next season in supporting the hop vines. This then seems the probable use, in the opinion of the writer, to which "hop land lots" were put. It is not disputed that there was a large business in hoop-poles, but the farmers must have resorted to the forests for the source of supply. As a matter of fact, timber was exported in large quantities and at last became so serious a question that the town took action as follows:

"At a town meting in Wallingford desember 25th 1705 The town considering the great destruction that hath bene of timber by reason of geeting and transporting of pipstaves[4] which to prevent the town voted and agreed to put a stop to the same and that no man shall have liberty to transport any staves after the tenth day of June next insuing the date hearof on the penalty of the Law in that case provided and to afeect that mater the town doth desire at least tow of the townsmen to give notis to all the marchants that used to traid in seach waire with the people of our town that whatsoever staves are shipt on bord or landed on shoore side to be shiped for transportation after July next shall be seased according to law also the s^{d} townsmen shall desire the grand jure men at Newheaven to make search after and present the same."

That this action did not accomplish what was desired, or else that the trade had again started up is evident by another vote.

1 In 1676 the inventory of Henry Cole dec'd was recorded in the Court of Probate in New Haven; Cole was a cooper and among articles scheduled were casks, barrels and *hoops*. A few pages beyond this list the records show the inventory of an individual who owned *"hopp"* lots, and the word is spelled as it is in the Wallingford records. In both instances Nathaniel Merriman, of Wallingford, was the appraiser. This proves conclusively that when Wallingford people wanted to spell *hoop* they knew how.

2 Hops are still raised in Meriden in small quantities.

3 There are many entries in the early probate records of hops in the same category with wheat, rye, etc.

4 Pipe—A wooden wine measure.

"Town meeting Deecember y^e^ first 1724

Voated: therfor the more effectually preventing unlawful transportation of timber out of this town of Wallingford the town considering the great Damage that will insue upon the town by gitting & transport great quantitys of stavs & other timber y^e^ which to prevent it is enacted by the inhabitants of the town in town meting conveined: to witt that for the futer no person shall be allowed to gitt or transport out of this town any staves of what sort soever or any board plank slit work or other timber whatsoever without a lycence first had & obtained according to law; under the hands of the majoure part of y^e^ selectmen for the time being. * * * * that for such butt staves as are already got the persons that gott the same coming to the selectmen paying down to them ten shillings money p^r^ thousand for y^e^ use of y^e^ town and so pro rater for greater or lesere quantityes, may have lycence to transport y^e^ same & in no other manner; & for hogsed staves eight shillings per thousand & for pipe staves seven shillings p^r^ thousand & for barrel staves six shillings p^r^ thousand; and for whitewood & cheestnut bords seven shillings p^r^ thousand; & for oak bords eight shillings per thousand and for plank & slitt work ten shillings p^r^ thousand & so proportionable for greater & leser quantity. * * * * *"

The vote then proceeds to hedge about the selectmen with fines and penalties in case they do not rigidly enforce the town vote. The action shows that the trade in pipestaves, hogshead staves and general lumber was considerable. It is very likely that the words, "slitt work," was a term used for barrel hoops.

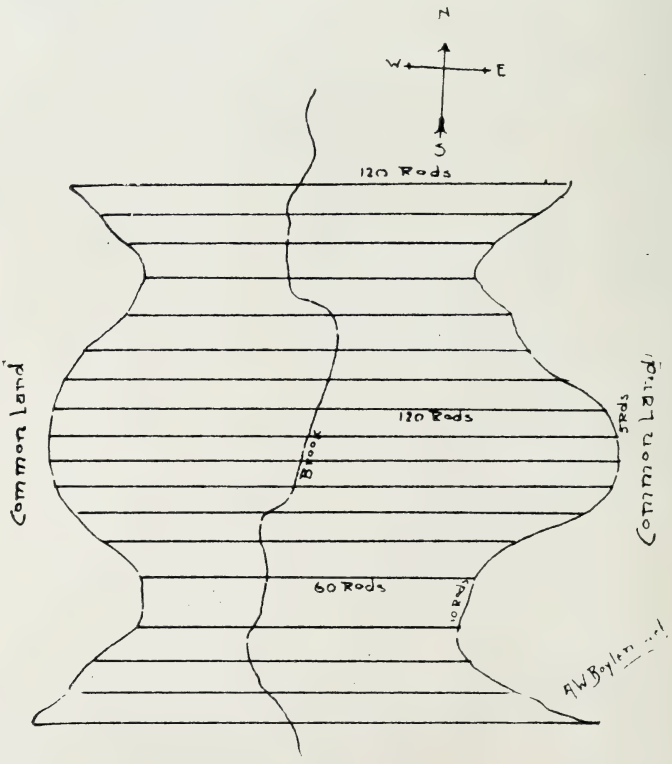
But to return to the "hopp lots,"[1] they were carefully alloted and recorded and for a number of years there are many entries of distribution and sale of 2, 3 and 4 acres. The regulation or usual shape of these lots in Dogs' Misery was 5 rods by 120 rods, although where adjoining differences in the ground, either in quality or topography, interfered with the breadth of the growth of the shrubs or small trees, away from the brook, the size or shape of the lots varied and approximated 10 by 60 rods. The distance along the brook (frequently called Misery brook) divided into these long, narrow lots, was considerable. A map of a portion of this distance made up from the records is here inserted and explains the arrangement at a glance. Each lot was bounded north and south by the lots of adjoining owners, one on each side, and on the east and west by common or undivided land.

By most people a foot is more readily comprehended than a rod; so that

1 The thought occurs that as swamp land is frequently or generally full of bogs, and in walking across it, one is compelled to jump or *hop* from one bog to another, that this fact may be the reason for the name. Our ancestors were quick to embody some striking peculiarity in their local nomenclature. Dances for many years have been called hops.

when it is said that these "hopp" lots were 1980 feet long (more than a third of a mile) by 82½ feet wide a better idea of their shape and size is conveyed.

There seems to have been more than the usual amount of work for the town committee or surveyors in laying out these lots and we find the following vote recorded Dec. 16, 1679: "Whereas it was formerly granted that every planter there in being should have a proportion of y^e^ hopp ground lands y^e^ commite are to have



DOGS' MISERY LOTS.

4^d^ per acre for theire paynes in laying out y^e^ same." A road ran to the locality from Wallingford that the old record in one place says is 20 rods wide—a most extraordinary width. Probably because the territory was swampy and if in one place the road was impassable it might be comparatively dry in another.[1] This

1 This extraordinary width of highway was not confined to Wallingford. Possibly the explanation is that there might be a settlement some day along the street and it would then be a green such as is seen in so many New England villages.

road was called Misery road and the old grass grown Misery Bar road that now runs through the heart of the swamp was probably constructed at the same time for the convenience of the owners to reach their various lots. The name of Dogs' Misery was applied to a much larger territory than that covered by the swamp. A name had to be employed and our ancestors were not particular as to the euphony[1] of a word providing it expressed the idea intended to be conveyed and so we find that those who took up "lands for farms in the district bounded by the mountains on the east and Meeting House or Deer Hill (as it was then called) on the west, were property owners in Dogs' Misery. It is probable that homes were built and settlements made in the neighborhood of Dogs' Misery Swamp as early as 1689. With so many property owners in so contracted a quarter and land grants so closely joined it is not surprising that disputes arose and appeals were made to the courts in New Haven. Capt. Yale and Ensign Royce became involved in a bitter quarrel that drew in many of the other lot owners. The immediate cause was a dispute about a watering place. Appeals were made to the town authority and one petition signed by twenty-four different men is a partial directory of the lot owners. A copy of the petition and names of the signers is given in Dr. Davis' history, page 132. Encroachment on a lot by an adjoining holder was not uncommon and the evident value of the lots makes it easy to understand how easily disputes would arise. Of course, these lot owners were constantly buying and selling until there was finally an accumulation in a few hands. The first house to be built in Dogs Misery was probably that of Daniel Hall, which stood not far from the present Julius Hall homestead, now occupied by his son and daughters on Murdock avenue. He took up his land grants in the vicinity until he had a farm of several hundred acres.

As already noted, there was a division of "'hopp" lots taking place at the same time along Harbor brook, south of West Main street. It was a repetition of the allotments in Dogs' Misery, although the lots were not so long, as the configuration of the land would not admit of it, for the depressions here are more narrow and the course of the stream more winding. In this territory was a large tract called "town farm" sequestered for public uses and on the Andrew Coe farm in South Meriden, a short distance west of the highway and half a mile south of the stone "castle" there is a ledge called "Town Rock." Few are aware of its existence and fewer still know that it is so called because it marked the western side of this town farm. This farm was one hundred and fifty acres in extent and was a long narrow lot that extended across Pilgrims' Harbor brook just above its junction with the Quinnipiac river, and ran well over toward the hill on which Walnut Grove cemetery is situated. It was afterwards granted to Rev. Samuel Whittlesey, of Wallingford, and held by him and his descendants for nearly a

1 Wethersfield had a swamp called "Hang Dog."

hundred years. The name of Pilgrims' Harbor localized a territory as far south as the junction of Cook and New Hanover avenues, west at least to Lewis avenue, north to Columbia street and perhaps farther, east certainly to the junction of East Main and Liberty streets, and deeds have been noticed granting tracts of land on Broad street that defined the real estate as in Pilgrims' Harbor. It was a name that did not have precise or definite boundaries, and they were shifted according to the notions of the grantor or grantee. But all that portion where "hopp lots" were located was very swampy and very likely just as uninviting in appearance as the swamp land of Dogs Misery. Indeed, the early deeds of lands in Pilgrims' Harbor speak of it as "ye wilderness"—a term not applied to any other part of Meriden, which shows that this central part of the town was entirely uncleared, with no meadow land—nothing but swamp and an almost impenetrable growth of trees and brush. The line of the northern extent of Wallingford at the Colony street crossing of Harbor brook was marked by two "mere" stones—so-called in old deeds; one on each side of the brook. Of course, there were "hopp" lots north of this boundary but they were private property and did not belong to Wallingford to dispose of; as we will see later. Another portion of Meriden that was attracting the attention of the planters at an early date was that south of Walnut Grove cemetery that we now term the Farms District. It was known as "Milking Yard." On Dec. 16, 1679, the record reads "town agreed and voated that y^{e} land about y^{e} Milking Yard and on y^{e} north side y^{e} broke at y^{e} head of y^{e} Little Playne w^{ch} was formerly designed for that end be viewed & provision made for settling of planters as they shal appeare." This name seems to have been derived from a brook that crosses Colony road a little south of the Dr. Archer place. Mr. Perkins says the brook was "so called because cattle were of old there driven into a pen to be milked." The land below was a common and used as pasturage for the herds of the planters living in Wallingford village, with provision for gathering the cattle to a common point at nightfall. As in all other towns the live stock was branded with each owner's particular mark which was carefully recorded. The following vote seems to show that the tradition of the pasturage and milking pen is correct. In 1672 the record reads "no more house lots granted except on west side y^{e} river or above y^{e} brook at y^{e} head of y^{e} littel playne called y^{e} tow mile playne; that all lands from thence downwards be for convenence of pastures & towne lands for home lots already granted on hill east of y^{e} g^{rt} playne." This milking yard plain was also called "Little playne," to distinguish it from the "Great playne" west of the village, and "Falls Playne." This locality seems to have been particularly attractive to the Royces and several members of this numerous family took grants of large tracts of land in Milking Yard and their farms ran up Colony road for nearly a mile, and the district was later called Royce's farms.

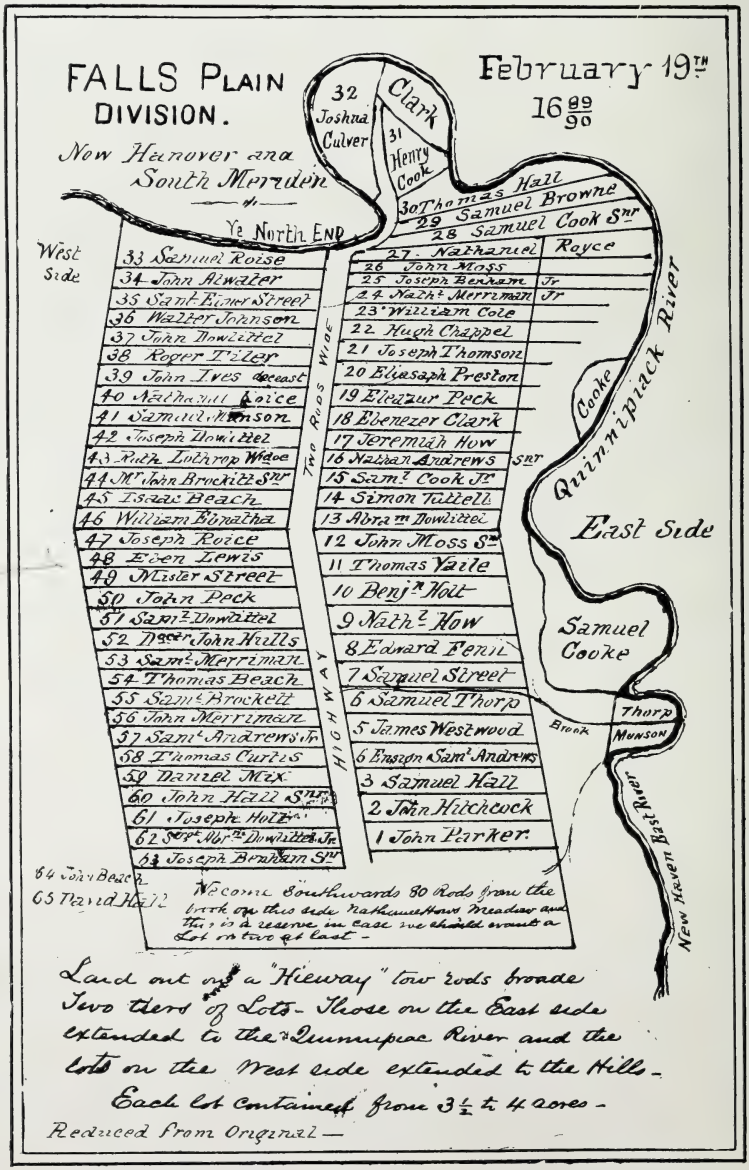
No part of Meriden *seems* to have been regarded so favorably by the pioneers as the territory now known as Hanover, or South Meriden. It is a beautiful spot. As one stands on the hill west of Walnut Grove cemetery and looks down on the little village nestled between bold hills and half circled by the waters of the Quinnipiac sweeping from the deep wooded valley known as Oregon, and then in the northwest beholds the glorious view of the rugged, serried ranges of the Hanging Hills, one admires the judgment of the planters. It is an ideal spot for just what *seems* to have been intended by the action of the town on Feb. 19, 1689. The ground had been laid out with a two rod street running north and south through the middle of the plain and the land on each side staked off into sixty-three lots. The street was eighty rods long and the lots ran from it to the hill on the west and the river on the east. The vote reads, "At a Lawful Towne meeting February 19th 1689-90 ye Towne voted that ye Falls Playne shall be cast lots for and laid out according to ye written platform or map. Ye lots being cast each mans lot as followeth," etc., etc.

The event was considered of such importance that a map was drawn and spread upon the land records—the only map ever thus honored by Wallingford. A reproduction on a small scale is shown. The place was called Falls Plain until well into the nineteenth century, but there was no attempt to settle on it at the time. It will be observed that there is no mention of the place being intended as a village. Indeed, one can hardly avoid the suspicion that perhaps this raffle of lots and laying out of a highway was another case of "hopp lots." The long narrow grants look suspiciously like those of Dogs' Misery and it is certain that there were constant transfers of hopp lots at Falls Plains thereafter. A few of these lots were very narrow—too narrow to have been used as house lots; for instance, lot No. 23, belonging to William Cole, was 80 rods long east and west, and 3 rods and 6 feet wide, or 1,320 x 55½ feet. That of Joseph Royce was 80 rods long and 5 rods and 4 feet wide.

But there cannot have been swamp land on the plain for it is too sandy to admit of it. There was a fall or rapids in the river near and just above the present site of the Meriden Cutlery Co., which gave the name to the plain, but there was no lake north of the village as that was lacking until the dam was built.

That part of Meriden north of the Quinnipiac river and northwest of Falls Plain or Hanover, which rises in foot hills extending to the base of Hanging Hills was called Hanging Hill woods and early in the next century the land records begin to frequently refer to this district. Allen avenue, leading from "Crow Hollow" on West Main street to Cheshire street on the other side of the long hill, takes one through the heart of Hanging Hill woods. The land was fertile and some of the most profitable farms in Meriden were located in this territory. It was so called even down to the foot of the hills east of Cheshire street.

Interest in these outlying districts is not sufficient to warrant further attention; we will return to that part of Meriden north of the Wallingford boundary line



at Pilgrims' Harbor ford, a large part of which was at the date to which these annals carried us in 1676, in the possession of "Hennerie" Cole.

CHAPTER VI.

Almost from the inception of the settlement of Wallingford the planters looked with longing eyes on the forbidden territory north of Pilgrims' Harbor ford. They desired it and they intended to get it. A considerable portion of the country which the colonial court had granted the town in 1670 was absolutely barren and not susceptible of cultivation. To-day one enters this tract in going south on the railroad a short distance below the Yalesville station. There are places where the sand plains are fully half a mile wide and they extend south into North Haven. Geologists tell us that the "great playne," as it was called, was once the bed of a large river—perhaps the Quinnipiac, or possibly the Connecticut before it broke through the rocky walls at Middletown. Moreover, they saw the enormous extent of Farmington, which at that time included the towns of Southington, Bristol, Burlington, Avon, New Britain, and a large part of Berlin. Middletown, on the east, was another large town which then included Cromwell, Portland, Chatham and Middlefield. There seemed no reason why this strip of country, three miles north and south and between five and six miles east and west, which was a part of no township, should not be incorporated into the town. John Talcott, of Hartford, a great Indian fighter and a man of consequence, was apparently the friend of some of the Wallingford planters and his influence was asked to assist in getting possession of the coveted land. It was impossible to procure a grant from the general assembly, so, by the aid of John Talcott, an Indian title to the land was bought. The experience in this vicinity, and doubtless elsewhere, was, that no sooner was a title bought from one Indian than another would present himself, claiming that the first Indian's title was "no good," but his was the genuine article. Already New Haven had bought the land as far north as Kensington avenue and Edward Higbee had bought the right to a large part of Meriden's soil of Seaukett in 1664; and now Adam Puit of Podunk presented himself with a clear and unsullied title to the land extending five miles south from Jonathan Gilbert's "Meriden farm." The deed tells its own story:

"Hartford, August 10, 1684.

"Know all men whom this may concern, that I, Adam Puit, Indian belonging and now resident at Podunk have and doe hereby mortgage all my land lyeing upon the roade towards Newhaven beyond and adjoyning to Jonathan Gilbert's

farme which tract of land being in length east & west six miles and in bredth north and south five miles with all the swamps rivers and meadow lands lyeing within the bownds & limits thereof to John Talcott of Hartford in Conecticutt & his heires forever. In case I the sayd Adampewitt do pay for & make full sattisfaction for one parcell of trucking cloth in hand received of the sayd John Talcott within one full year after the date hereof, & in case we the sayd parties agree about the sayd land before the end & terme of one full yeare (to say) for the purchase or sale thereof the sayd Adam is to receive foure coates more as full sattisfaction for the purchase thereof, the premises not being performed as above sayd, I the sayd Adam Puit doe freely & fully resigne & deliver up the sayd land to John Tallcot & his heires forever to be theirs to possess & enjoy & to hold as their own porcon, as witness my marke the day and year above sayd.

The mark of Adam  Puit.

Witnessed by us

Samuel Tallcot, Dorothy Tallcot.

Nesehegan Indian, Cherry Indian & Wenumpa Indian belonging to Tunxis & Hartford all appeared at Hartford on this 18th of October & testify & witness that Adam puit above written in the deed of guift afoarsayd had sole right & title in the land above sayd being about six miles east & west & five miles north & sowth beyond & next adjoyneing to Jonathan Gilberts farme in the way to New Haven which we understand is now sold to Major John Tallcot this we certify & know to be true & testify unto y^e^ yeare & day above written before me, Robert Treat, Dep: governor, which three Indians above sayd Nesshegen Wenampis & Cherry being examined about the contents of this sayd writing which they testify unto, and they all of them Joyntly and severally answered in English that they well understood the same & doe witness to the same in all the particulars thereof this day & yeare above written bf me Robert Treat Dep:Govr."[1]

1 Major Talcott had previously obtained the native deeds from certain Indians of the land granted to Wallingford by the General court in 1670 and the names of these Indians are wonderful examples of the ability to combine letters into words that are almost impossible to pronounce. The names of the grantors and witnesses are Nessamboccome, Manappash, Sunksqua Matoesse, Son Wetantson, Mymesque Accanent, Wayashunt, Pettuquatton, Wyashur, Necananip, Nodanuco and Awawoss.

Major Talcott sent a letter to the Wallingford committee with the deeds which is quaint and interesting.

"Worthy Gentillman: After Sallutations presented these may enforme you that I have sent you your long waited for indian deed purchase by my Cousan Sammuell Wakeman; it was finished on the second day of the present week. Gentillmen I must confess my many errors by reason of the often Blots also at the pening of it; mistake a name or two in the first part but rcovered in the latter part so that I hope nothing therein will prove above the nature of a circumstantiall error; as for the substance, it will hold firme and good in law for your security; the truth is I was shortned for time and having but one day after the Court to write in and draw the modell of the deed before the indians were appoynted to be at my house and there came a considerable company, that I could not doe anything in reference to drawing it over more faire, being willing to gain as many hands and seals as I

John Talcott then gave an assignment of the above deed to Wallingford and both documents are duly recorded on the town books and also in Deeds and Patents to Lands in the office of Secretary of State.

This deed from Adam Puit conveyed land as far south as Yalesville, notwithstanding that all south of Pilgrims' Harbor ford already belonged to Wallingford. Five miles south from Jonathan Gilbert's Meriden farm would measure fully to that point. *This transaction* must have convinced the Wallingford planters that it was only a question of time before the colony of Connecticut would confirm this Indian deed by allowing the town to absorb the land by actual extension of its bounds to the southern bounds of Farmington. This Indian grant only put Wallingford in the position of owning the land just as a private person might, but gave the town no right to tax the individuals who were living in the locality. Already Henry Cole held an Indian title to the same territory or a good part of it which had been given by Seaukett to Edward Higbee and by Higbee to Cole. It would have been better for all concerned had the colony decided at once to incorporate the land in the township of Wallingford. But instead, in view of the impending advent of Sir Edmund Andross to assume the reins of government, the land was given to the towns of "Farmington, Wethersfield and Middletown to plant a village in" as has already been told in Chapter II. The act was certainly unjust, but it was probably done in the heat of excitement. As we, of course, know, the land was ultimately incorporated into Wallingford, but not until bitter land disputes had been occasioned by the anomalous situation. Not until many years later did the territory receive much attention from these favored towns and then the struggle to take away whatever rights Wallingford had under her Indian grant was carried on mainly by Middletown. The struggle lasted more than fifty years. When last our attention was given to this northern territory Henry Cole with his family were practically the sole inhabitants, and little attention seems to have been paid to it by the four surrounding towns. But on Dec. 20,

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could then; otherwise it should have been more prepared and presented to your view; and at time of drawing, many people crowding in upon me put me beyond my ordinary pace and the indian names being many and odd were hard and difficult to retaine and distinctly and precisely to enter; and hath often been in my thoughts to have renewed it but have feared that I should not get the Indians together to sign; they lived in such a scattered way and a great distance one from another that another year in reason would have been little enough to have brought this matter to pass and thought perhaps some might die whose names were in as salers* as was almost the case of the young sunk squa so that I thought it to be so tedious a business to adventure upon that which had proved soe troublesome already; some of you Gentillmen may remember what Court it was that the Indians agreed in Mr. Adams orchard they would meet at my house at that time. I had but a day as I sayd before me to write and draw; now hoping worthy gentillmen and friends you will excuse me wherin I have fallen short of your expectations, granting your favorable acceptance of what I have herewith presented to your view who am honord. Gentillmen and friends your reall

friend and faithfull Servant,

JOHN TALCOTT.

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* An obsolete word; meaning sellers, that is grantors.

1708, this vote was passed in town meeting by both Wethersfield and Middletown "Whereas the Gen^{ll} assembly of this colony having formerly granted unto the townes of Weathersfield Middletown and Farmington all that tract of Land lying between Weathersfield Middletowne and Farmington and Wallingford not before granted, this town appoints Capt Robt Wells, Capt Joshua Robbins & Leut Benja Churchill a committee they or any two of them, fully Impowering y^{m} to do any Lawfull act or acts w^{ch} we are able to doe in order to a Survey of the said tract & what further they may Judge meet in order to the settling of the same with Inhabitants or Its distribution for our use and to make return of what they do in this affair to this town as soon as they can perform the trust committed to them hereby." These votes were in identical language and passed on the same day, which shows that it was concerted action, and an attempt to take advantage of the grant by the Colonial government in 1687. That same year a Wethersfield man had bought a large part of Henry Coles' farm of his heirs, and possibly some action was deemed necessary to protect him in his purchase, for Wallingford had insisted that the deed should be recorded in her land records. Two years later the latter town made this individual buy her Indian or native right to his purchase, held under the deed, from Adam Puit. Nothing further transpired to show that Wethersfield and Middletown were giving attention to the disputed territory until 1722 and 1723. In those years two petitions were presented to the General Assembly by two groups of Wallingford men, showing that the dispute over these lands had broken out again. The petitions are in the Connecticut State Library among the archives entitled Towns and Lands.[1] The first one reads as follows: "To y^{e} Hon^{ble} The Gov^{r} & Councill and Representatives in y^{e} Gen^{ll} Court Assembled at New Haven October 11th 1722. The Petition of Joseph Moss of Derby, Thomas Yale, Nath^{ll} Yale, John Yale, Hawkins Hart, Samuell Hall, Joshua Culver, John Atwater, Thomas Miles, Daniel Tuttle, Henry Williams, y^{e} heirs of John Moss deceased, Gideon Ives, and Thomas Hall, all of Wallingford: and the heirs of John Burroughs deceased: Humbly Sheweth: That whereas there was a purchase of Land obtained by y^{e} ancient Proprietors of New Haven in y^{e} year 1638; of one Mantuese an Indian Sachem, w^{ch} purchase extended northward even beyond y^{e} northermost bound of yt w^{c} is now y^{e} Township of Wallingford; and Livery of Seizin was made to y^{e} Gentlemen of Newhaven, by y^{e} S^{d} Indian Sachem of this Tract of Land being eight miles wide from Nhaven East River eastward, and extending into y^{e} north to a certaine tree, marked by y^{e} Said Indian Sachem (w^{c} tree is about a mile north of Pilgrims harbour). And whereas y^{e} Proprietors of y^{e} Town of NHaven were in actual Seizin of these Lands (as all y^{e} Rest of their Township purchas^{d} of y^{e} Natives) for many years before y^{e} date of Connecticut Charter without Dis-

1 Vol. IV., Doc. 66.

turbance or Interruptions of any person or persons laying claim thereunto, or any part thereof: And Whereas ab^{t} y^{e} year 1669 some of y^{e} Inhabitans of Nhaven inclining to settle themselves in northern parts of y^{e} Lands belonging to Nhaven & to make a village or new Town there; The Town of Nhaven (according to y^{e} honest and well-meaning customs of those times) did in full Town meeting, by vote grant all their Right of Lands, in y^{e} northern part of their purchase, unto such persons as would Inhabit there and Incorporate themselves in a Town or Village Society, for y^{e} Setting up and Supporting y^{e} publique Worship of God according to Gospel Institution, etc.: Whereupon Sundry Persons y^{e} Ancestors and Proprietors of y^{e} Petitioners Removed thither and Obtained from y^{e} Gen^{ll} Court A Grant of a Township with priviledges of a Town, w^{ch} is now called Wallingford; but only when Wallingford obtained their Pattent from y^{e} Gov^{r} & Company for y^{e} better holding their Lands, their bounds were not extended northward so far as their just claims from Ancient purchase and Grant from Nhaven, y^{e} Reason of w^{c} was (as our Ancestors have told us) viz y^{e} Worship'fll Major John Talcott Deceased (sometime before Wallingfords Pattent was moved for) had obtained a Mortgage from some ——— one Indians of Connecticut River of these very Lands w^{c} were y^{e} Northern-most part of Nhaven's purchase of Mantuese as abovesaid, and he y^{e} s^{d} Major Talcott being at y^{t} time Wallingford's great Patron for obtaining a settlement from y^{e} Gen^{ll} Court: therefor Wallingford did not earnestly move for y^{e} bounds of their Pattent to be extended any farther northward than was pleasing to y^{t} s^{d} worthy Gentleman, but since y^{t} Time y^{e} Town of Wallingford have purchas'd y^{e} s^{d} mortgage of y^{e} abovesaid Major Talcott y^{t} they might have y^{e} good likeing of y^{e} above said Major Talcott and might be sure to obtain an undoubted Native Right & Title by Purchase either from Mantuese as abovesaid or by these latter Indian Claimers, who mortgage'd to y^{e} abovesaid Major not knowing w^{t} Indians might have y^{e} most just claim to those Lands: And Whereas now in y^{e} one or y^{e} other of y^{e} methods abovesaid y^{e} Town of Wallingf'd Supposing that they had obtain'd an undoubted honest Native Right above y^{e} bounds of their Township, they did thereof in a Lawfull Town-meeting Authorize and Impower Capt Thomas Yale and Cap^{t} John Merriman and Sergt Tho^{s} Hall as a committee to sell any of those Lands above y^{e} Township and yet within their Indian purchase w^{c} Buyers should appear willing to take of: and to Deposite y^{e} money w^{c} Should be so obtain'd into y^{e} Town Treasury: whereupon your Petitioners (being y^{e} heirs and assigns of some of y^{e} Ancient Inhabitants of Wallingford) did severally purchase of y^{e} above said committee severall parcells of those Lands abovesaid and took Deeds from y^{e} s^{d} committee as followeth viz Joseph Moss and John Moss deceased as partners for 150 Acres. Thos Yale 100 Acres, John Yale 100 Acres, Nath^{ll} Yale 80 Acres, Hawkins Hart 100 Acres, Samuel Hall 29 Acres, Joshua

Culver 100 Acres, John Atwater 100 Acres, Thos Miles 50 Acres, Dan[ll] Tuttle 80 Acres, Henry Williams 200 Acres: Gideon Ives 20 Acres, and Thomas Hall 100 Acres, John Burroughs 480 Acres: wherefore y[e] Prayer of your humble Petitioners is yt this Hon[ble] Assembly in their Wisdom, Justice and Equity, would Grant a confirmation of y[e] several parcells of Land Specified above unto y[e] Persons above named for y[e] better holding of those Lands to them and their heirs forever: according to y[e] Laws of this Governmt, and y[e] Royal Charter of King Charles y[e] Second of blessed memory and y[e] Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c

John Moss &c.

The year following a like petition was presented by Gideon Ives and Nathaniel Curtis who had each purchased under like circumstances two hundred acres. The purchases of the first petitioners had been made in the extreme northern part of the disputed tract on the other side of Cat Hole pass and adjoining; and the second group had bought the land in the extreme northeastern part known as Notch Meadow near Middletown. Both seem to have been test cases; and each purchaser found his land claimed by people in the neighboring towns. The petition while it stated the case fairly showed ignorance of the records, for John Talcott did not obtain the mortgage from Adam Puit until 1684, fourteen years after the settlement of Wallingford, and he could not have had a claim to the land when the bounds of the town were granted. Moreover New Haven had not been in quiet possession of the lands in question "without disturbance or interruptions of any persons laying claim thereunto." But more than 50 years had elapsed since the date of the union of the two colonies and the memory of man is short and in the main the petition was a just claim. The General Assembly appointed a committee to view the land, and set such price on the land as said committee should think just and proper. Thus the petitioners had to pay another purchase price in order to buy the right of the colony to these lands. But the colonial government then settled once and for always, the jurisdiction over the disputed territory, for at the October session, 1723, the following resolution was passed: "That the polls and rateable estate of all the inhabitants living on a tract of land bounding east on Middletown, north on Jonathan Belcher Esq[r] his farm, northwesterly on Farmington, south on Wallingford, shall be put into the general list of the town of Wallingford; and the said inhabitants are to give in their lists to the listers of the town of Wallingford (upon lawful warning given them by said listers) etc., etc:"[1] At the May session, 1725, the following resolution appears: "Upon the petition of the north farmers in Wallingford and those inhabiting the land northward of said Wallingford, commonly called Wallingford Pur-

1 Colonial Records of Conn., Vol. VI., p. 414.

chase Lands. This Assembly grants that they be a separate society for setting up and carrying on the publick worship of God among themselves, with all such liberties, powers and priviledges, as other such societies in this colony have and do by law enjoy; and that the bounds of said society shall be as followeth viz.: all that part of said Wallingford Purchase Lands not already granted to Wallingford West Society[1] or to Farmington South Society,[2] which lands adjoyn to said Wallingford north bounds, and also that part of said Wallingford township bounded as followeth, that is to say: that the river shall be the line from the bounds of the West Society down the stream unto the south side of Joseph Coles farm, and from thence unto the country[3] road north of Amos Hall's farm, and from thence a straight line unto the highway below Amos Camp's house at the east end of said highway, and from thence an east line unto the mountain; and if these lines shall happen to cross any man's land, the said piece of land shall wholly belong unto that society wherein the owner dwells."[4]

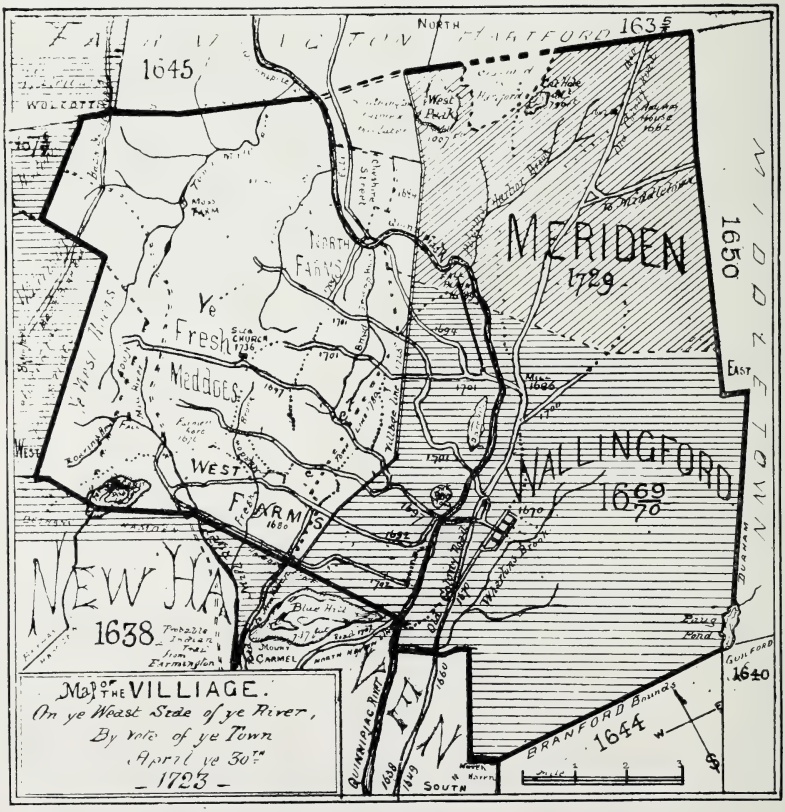
In the main these bounds are the present boundaries of Meriden, except that Jonathan Belcher's farm called Meriden was not included. At the May session, 1728, "Upon the prayer of the North Society in Wallingford: It is now ordered that Merridan farm shall be annexed and the same is hereby annexed to the said society; and that all the lands heretofore ordered by this Assembly to belong to said society, together with said farm, is hereby annexed to the town of Wallingford and to the County of New Haven, and that said society shall be called and known by the name of Merridan."[5] Thus at last the status of the parish was established and christened by the name of Meriden, the name heretofore borne only by the farm in the northern part.[6]

The new boundaries gave Meriden parish a straight line on the north and included the territory in modern Berlin up to the laneway running west, just south of the house of Albert Norton, and so it continued until the last years of the eighteenth century. Those farms lying around what is known as Botsford's Corners, beyond Cat Hole pass in Kensington, were then also included in Meriden. But the disputes about boundaries were not settled even by this action of the General Assembly and during many years Wallingford and Middletown were almost annually involved in controversies that brought out the county surveyors, the se-

1 Cheshire.
2 Great Swamp Society or Kensington.
3 Colony Road.
4 Colonial Records of Conn., Vol. VI., p. 521.
5 Colonial Records of Conn., Vol. VII., p. 196.
6 The absorption of this farm into the parish of Meriden was not pleasing to Eleazer Aspinwall who, it will be remembered, was Gov. Belcher's tenant at this time. At the October session he petitioned the General Assembly that he didn't wish to belong to the new parish but to Kensington parish where he had attended since the start; but the petition was refused notwithstanding it was fortified by an affidavit from Rev. Mr. Burnham, of Kensington, saying that Aspinwall had paid his rates to Kensington parish from 1717 until 1727.

lectmen of both towns and adjoining property owners until it seemed as if the matter never would be settled. These troubles will be related later.

At any rate much had been accomplished. The long coveted land north of Pilgrims' Harbor ford was now a part of the township of Wallingford and a new society or parish had been formed out of this newly acquired territory and a portion of what had been incorporated in the township in 1670, and henceforth when one spoke of Meriden the name covered almost identically the same stretch of mountain, hill and dale that it does to-day.



MAP PREPARED BY JOSEPH P. BEACH OF CHESHIRE.

CHAPTER VII.

Before the Indian deed given by Adam Puit had been obtained by Wallingford through the mediation of Major Talcott, the colony of Connecticut had granted two large tracts of land in the territory north of Pilgrims' Harbor ford to two prominent men: one James Bishop, the other William Jones, both of New Haven. Each gift was probably a pension or reward for valuable services performed. Both men had been conspicuous in the colony of New Haven before the union with Connecticut and both were influential in the councils of the colony after the union.

The name of James Bishop does not appear on the New Haven records until 1646, so probably he was not one of the original planters. Evidently he was a man of ability and high character, and after 1661 he was conspicuous and influential. In that year he was elected secretary of the colony and continued in that office until the union. In 1668 he was chosen one of the magistrates of Connecticut and was re-chosen annually until 1683 when he was made deputy governor. To that office he was re-elected each year until his death on June 22, 1691.

William Jones,[1] who had been a lawyer in London, came to America in the same ship which brought the regicides Whalley and Goffe in 1660. He had married in London, Hannah, the youngest daughter of Governor Theophilus Eaton. of New Haven. The governor had died in 1658 and Mr. Jones came to New Haven to look after his wife's estate and there he made his home. He was a man of good talents and the fact was soon recognized, for in 1662 he was chosen one of the magistrates of the colony of New Haven. In 1664 he was elected deputy governor. Upon the union in 1665 he was elected a magistrate of Connecticut and was annually re-elected until the death of James Bishop in 1691 when he was elected deputy governor to succeed him. He was each year re-chosen until 1698 when he refused to continue in the office longer as he was then 74 years old. He died Oct. 17, 1706, at the age of 82, and the General Assembly which was then sitting in New Haven voted to give him a public funeral and appropriated the funds to defray the expense. The most interesting fact in his life was his connection with the two judges, Whalley and Goffe. While they were hiding in New Haven, Mr. Jones' house was their place of refuge for eleven days, and he seems to have shared the honors with Rev. John Davenport during this exciting episode in the history of New Haven.[2]

1 His father was executed as one of the judges of King Charles 1st; see Palfrey's History of N. E., Vol. II., p. 504.

2 Connecticut Magazine; year 1905, p. 539.

At the October session of the General Assembly, 1669, the following vote was recorded: "This court grants Mr. James Bishop three hundred acres of land, provided he takes it up where it does not prejudice any former grant," and the following year the "Court appoynts Mr. John Mosse and Mr. James Brockett to lay out to the Honrd * * * * Mr. James Bishop that land that was formerly granted by this court." The farm or grant laid out for Mr. Bishop was in the very heart of Meriden, and although we cannot locate the exact bounds we can approximate it very closely.

Start at the bridge over Harbor brook, just east of the office of Lyon & Billard Co.—the southwest corner, and follow the west bank of the brook until we reach the northwest corner of the Center street bridge over Harbor brook. Then draw a straight line westward to the intersection of Springdale and Capitol avenues; thence due south to Main street, and then by a straight line to the starting point. The northern line of this land grant crosses Colony street a little north of Foster street and the south line runs just back of or through all the business blocks on the south side of West Main street. The Meriden Britannia Co. factories and all the business blocks on West Main street and nearly all on North Colony street are in the Bishop farm, and it includes within its bounds the most valuable part of Meriden's business center. But at the time the grant was made, it was what may well be termed a "howling wilderness." Just what use Mr. Bishop made of it we cannot tell. Doubtless he sold timber which was floated down Harbor brook and Quinnipiac river, and perhaps, after part of the land was cleared he put some one in charge to till the land and raise crops. In an inventory of his estate made after his death in 1691 this farm was valued at £40, or say $200. Of course this sum is ridiculous when compared with the valuation that two hundred years of settlement and progress have added to it.

Capt. John Prout, a mariner of New Haven, and a man of large wealth, married one of Mr. Bishop's daughters and eventually gained possession of the farm. There is no record of the boundaries until it was sold by Capt. Prout and his wife, Mary, for £305, to John Merriam on Nov. 3, 1716. In this deed it is described as "300 acres in the wilderness at Pilgrims Harbour, butting south on Wallingford old line, north on Cole farm, east on a brook formerly Mr. William Jones, west on land lately laid out to sundry persons by the town of Wallingford." The phrase "south on Wallingford old line," is the key by which we are enabled to roughly locate all the ancient farms in Meriden that were in Pilgrims' Harbor. It should be mentioned here that there never was an attempt to establish a village in Meriden. The land was granted in large tracts scattered here and there, and they were solely for farming purposes. That a village was finally formed was due wholly to unconscious gravitation towards a convenient center. In other words it was a form of evolution.

In the description of the Bishop farm, the eastern boundary is given as butting on a brook or Mr. William Jones. Mr. Jones' farm was laid out in 1680 by vote of the General Assembly and two additions were granted him at a later date by Wallingford and the colony so that eventually he had 550 acres. The description of the first or colonial grant is as follows,[1] "beginning by Wallingford Bound stake on the south (or east) side of Pilgrims Harbor River and from thence eastward by the line of Wallingford bounds a mile in length to a walnut tree marked W. I., from thence a line varying from a perpendicular eastward trianglewise to a white oak standing upon the land of the aforesaid river marked W. I., and from thence the mayne branch of the aforesaid river to the forementioned stake by the sayd river in the old road from New Haven to Hartford." This grant is very easy to trace on a modern map except that the eastern line is a trifle indefinite. Start at the southeast corner of the Colony street bridge over Harbor brook just east of the office of Lyon & Billard Co. and draw a straight line eastward running through the Main Street Baptist church and then up Liberty street until Orient street is reached, or a spot just a mile from our starting point; then by a straight line running northeast to the southeast shore of Baldwin's pond; then back to our starting point, following the bank of the pond and Harbor brook. This was the first grant and contained 300 acres. The second grant was wholly in Wallingford territory and contained 150 acres and is dated in 1680. The boundaries are as follows: Start at the southeast corner of the bridge where first grant started and then by a line south to the intersection of Colony and Olive streets, thence eastward by a line parallel to Liberty street to a point due south from the junction of that street and Orient street; then northerly to that junction and thence westward by the south boundary of the first grant or Liberty street to our original starting point. The third grant contained 100 acres and was made in 1687 to "Debity" governor Jones, by the colony, acting by the hand of her duly accredited agent Mr. Thomas Yale, not only by the delivery of a deed, but also by an old English custom dating from time immemorial, viz: the delivery of "turf and twig."[2] It was wholly east of the first grant of 300 acres. Its southern boundary was simply an extension of the same line which began at South Colony street bridge and ran up Liberty street to Orient, mentioned in the first grant. It was extended now until it reached the brook[3] on the east and then the line ran down the brook northerly to the northeast corner of the first grant

1 Volume entitled Deeds and Patents of Lands, Vol. II., p. 148 in the office of secretary of state, Hartford.

2 This method of taking possession was formerly required by English law. Its origin antedates the use of written documents; a twig broken from a tree and a sod cut from the turf of the property symbolized the transfer. The later written deed simply took the place of this symbol. See Andrew's River Towns of Conn. Johns Hopkins University Studies, p. 41.

3 Some call this Willow Hill Brook: The ancient name was South Branch of Pilgrims' Harbor Brook.

by Baldwin's pond. Consequently this third grant and the first gave him all the country bounded on the east, north and west by the brook and on the south by the straight line mentioned. Here then were two great farms given to Messrs. Bishop and Jones that really embraced a very great part of the business center of modern Meriden.

It almost seems as if these gentlemen had a prophetic vision of what the future was to be when choosing their grants in territory that was to contain so large a part of Meriden's business activity.

It is now time to describe the "northern bound line of Wallingford" or "Wallingford old bounds," which has been mentioned in the foregoing descriptions. Its location was as much of a puzzle in the early days as it is to-day. The one point already located—its intersection with Colony street at Harbor Brook bridge is easy to remember. As land transfers began to increase the selectmen found it necessary to locate this line in a way that could not be mistaken. It was particularly necessary for this reason. All grants south of this line were given by the town of Wallingford—the town was, therefore, the fountain source. But land north of the line had been granted by the colonial government or the "Country," as the old records express it, and was governed and taxed by it. Wallingford had nothing to do with these north farms previous to 1723, except that she held the Indian or native right after 1684 through the purchase from Adam Puit, and made some grants under it. The result is interesting. The northern territory was settled almost wholly by people from Wethersfield, Middletown, Farmington, Durham and Massachusetts, while the southern or Wallingford section was settled by the inhabitants of that town. This rule was not invariable, but it was general. A lack of knowledge of the location of the northern boundary line made it easy for one man to encroach on another's property. It is anticipating events somewhat to describe how this boundary line was marked for we have to jump from the year 1687 to 1721—a year when the Jones farm had begun to be broken up into smaller holdings. In October, 1721, the town committee or selectmen laid out a "two rod highway beginning at Pilgrims Harbor brook at the Country road to follow the town line to Middletown bounds."[1] Later deeds show the exact location of this road and it is a straight line the whole distance to Middletown. The Rev. Theophilus Hall and Aaron Lyman acquired the southern part or second grant of the Jones farm, and their northern bounds both from their own frequent descriptions and from tradition were on Liberty street. The old Brenton Hall farm in the extreme eastern part of Meriden, originally granted to Rev. Samuel Hall, of Cheshire, was also bounded on the north by this old town line or highway. Imagine Liberty street extending westerly until it reaches the Colony street bridge over Harbor

1 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. III., p. 520.

Brook and also easterly, running in a straight line on its present course, and it will give us the highway laid out by the selectmen in 1721. In order to picture it as it was, it is necessary to obliterate, in our minds, East Main street from Colony street to the Center Congregational church, as that street was laid out at a much later date.[1] One's mind is so dominated by this more important street that this ancient layout cannot be understood until we imagine or picture Liberty street as the one highway running from what is now the center of the town to the east. This old road, as it ran east from Harbor Brook bridge, passed just south of the middle of the present location of the Main Street Baptist church and came out at the northern end of what is now Willow street, and it will be readily seen that this is on the line of Liberty street. This old section, now obliterated, was in existence within the memory of people still living. Mrs. Breckenridge in her "Recollections of a New England Town," mentions it.[2] This old Liberty street (as we may call it) can still be traced at many points. If one stands on Preston avenue where the old Booth place formerly stood in the extreme eastern part of Meriden and looks west, one can see the old grass grown road bordered by old stone walls and running through the meadows until the hill hides it from view, and on the horizon in the same line one will perceive on a clear day the old "Bill" Johnson place in the extreme western part of the town. It is easy to follow the road on foot for a long distance, but here and there the traces are lost because the ground has been cultivated. The John Yeamans place, built over a hundred and seventy years ago, seems to front only on the meadows until one discovers that it faced this old highway, which has been closed since 1786, at which time the selectmen sold to John Yeamans 1,200 feet of it west of his house.[3] The situation of the Brenton or Caspar Hall place is not intelligible until one has in one's mind the fact that the old highway running in front of it was once the only road from Pilgrims' Harbor running east. One hundred years ago Brenton Hall was probably the most prominent man in Meriden and when his house[4] was built at an

1 Main Street from Broad Street to Liberty Street was laid out in 1782 and from Liberty to Colony Street in 1812.

2 P. 105.

3 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. XXIV., p. 84.

4 This old house was torn down a year ago. If one rides to the end of the electric car line in East Meriden and then walks up the road running to the north, one is on Preston Avenue. At the top of the hill, about an eighth of a mile from the car tracks, one reaches this old highway running east and west. That part of the highway east of Preston Avenue is still in use and climbs a hill, at the top of which on the south side of the road stood the old Casper or Brenton Hall place. From this point the view is beautiful; in the south extends the range of Besett or Beseck Mountains with Black Pond at the foot mirroring the rugged cliffs in its sombre waters, while in the west a charming stretch of meadow, wood and vale ends with the grand range of the Hanging Hills. About half a mile to the west on the same old highway stands the John Yeamans house with its old stone chimney still undisturbed (taken down since this was written). This house was built by Daniel Baldwin about 1730. Chimney Hill derives its name from the old stone chimneys of two or three old houses, left standing after the houses had disappeared. These houses also faced this road. Several old houses once stood on this street that have completely disappeared.

early date by Rev. Samuel Hall of Cheshire, it was on the main thoroughfare and the present Middletown and Meriden turnpike was not in existence. In the year 1744 (twenty years after Wallingford had acquired the northern half of Meriden) bitter disputes about land boundaries were agitating the farmers, and it was deemed wise to define and lay out the western half of the ancient Wallingford north line. Therefore, on Jan. 25, 1744-45, the selectmen engaged the services of the New Haven county surveyor, John Hitchcock, to run it. He ran "the old north line beginning at northwest corner by Farmington bounds" (now Southington) down to the "white wood stub by west end of Pilgrims Harbor bridge" and stakes were driven every eighty rods the whole distance to define it. Then the selectmen laid out a highway just south of this line beginning at Farmington line and running to the "road that goes west through John Merriam's farm."

In 1735 John Merriam had sequestered land for a road running through his farm, 2 rods wide, beginning at the Country road just north of his house and running west past Beaver Dam brook now known as Sodom brook; this was the first lay out of West Main street. What was done by the selectmen was to run the road now known as Johnson avenue (down the steep Johnson hill just south of the Parker Clock Co. shop) until it came to West Main street, a short distance west of Capitol avenue.[1] The extreme western part of Johnson avenue begins at Southington line and is skirted for half a mile on the north by that town (1745 Farmington). If one is fortunate enough to own a copy of the 1851 map of Meriden (one of the most accurate maps of Meriden ever made and particularly valuable because it delineates the whole township) and will take a long ruler and place one end on Johnson avenue and the other end on the bit of road running in front of the Brenton Hall place in the extreme eastern part of Meriden, the ruler will show the ancient northern boundary of Wallingford and one will find this line coming down Johnson avenue and thence running very closely to the line of West Main street until it reaches Butler street when the line cuts down through the buildings on the south side of West Main street, coming out in front of Lyon & Billard Co.'s office, over the bridge and through the south part of the Baptist church, up Liberty street, and so on until it runs in front of the Brenton Hall place to Middletown, just as it was laid out by the selectmen so long ago, to show the farmers the northern boundaries of what had been the jurisdiction of Wallingford until 1723. The coast survey map of the Meriden district published by the state will also give this line accurately. Thus the ancient Wallingford boundary line cuts the town into two nearly equal parts.

Mention has been made of the Country road. It was thus that our forefathers called Colony street, meaning, not that it was in the country, but that it belonged to the country or colonial government of Connecticut. This is proved conclu-

1 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. XI., p. 498.

sively by a vote of the General Assembly passed at the May session in 1760.[1] A committee reported "that upon viewing the road thro' Wallingford Plain they found the same too narrow, and the passing of travellers greatly hindered and obstructed by gates, bars and fences being made and erected across said highway and that they are of opinion that said gates, fences and obstructions should be removed and a highway of four rods wide at least laid open, etc.

"*It is, therefore, resolved by this Assembly,* That said gates, bars and fences be removed, and the highway thro' Wallingford Plain be laid open at least four rods wide, and the town of Wallingford is hereby required to remove said obstructions and lay open said way accordingly," etc., etc. Had the road not been a government highway the Assembly would not have given the town of Wallingford directions regarding it. It was invariably called Country road until about the year 1800. After that date it was called the Old road until our modern name of Colony street was adopted, which has exactly the same significance as the early name. They were conveying precisely the same meaning as when we speak of a highway as the state road. There was another Country road leading from Farmington to Wallingford that passed just west of Meriden territory. There was only one other in Meriden that had a name in those early days, and that was Misery road or path leading from Wallingford village to Dogs' Misery.

John Merriam bought the Bishop farm in 1716 and may have found the house in existence or built it; we cannot tell which, for no mention is made of it in the deed. It stood on the west side of the Country road, the north end extending north as far as the West Main street car tracks, while the south end of the house would, if now in existence, jut into the store of Victor Schmelzer, No. 6 West Main street, possibly touching Griswold, Richmond & Glock and Church & Morse, adjoining. The well was on the north side of the house and will be remembered by many as the old well that once was located in the junction of Colony and Main streets, and which was filled up more than thirty years ago. The old house had probably disappeared before the turnpike (now known as East and West Main streets) was cut through in 1812. The extra width of Main street west of the junction with Colony street is due to the addition of the turnpike to the road two rods wide north of his house opened by Mr. Merriam in 1735. He made this road so as to reach his saw mill, located a little west of where the Waterbury railroad station stands. North Colony street where it intersects Main street was once much narrower than it is to-day. In 1831 Dr. Isaac I. Hough and Major Elisha A. Cowles conveyed to the town for highway purposes a strip of land twenty feet wide on the west side of Colony where it joins Main and extending north about 300 feet. This was in front of the present location of the Meriden

1 Colonial Records of Conn., Vol. XI., pp. 480-481.

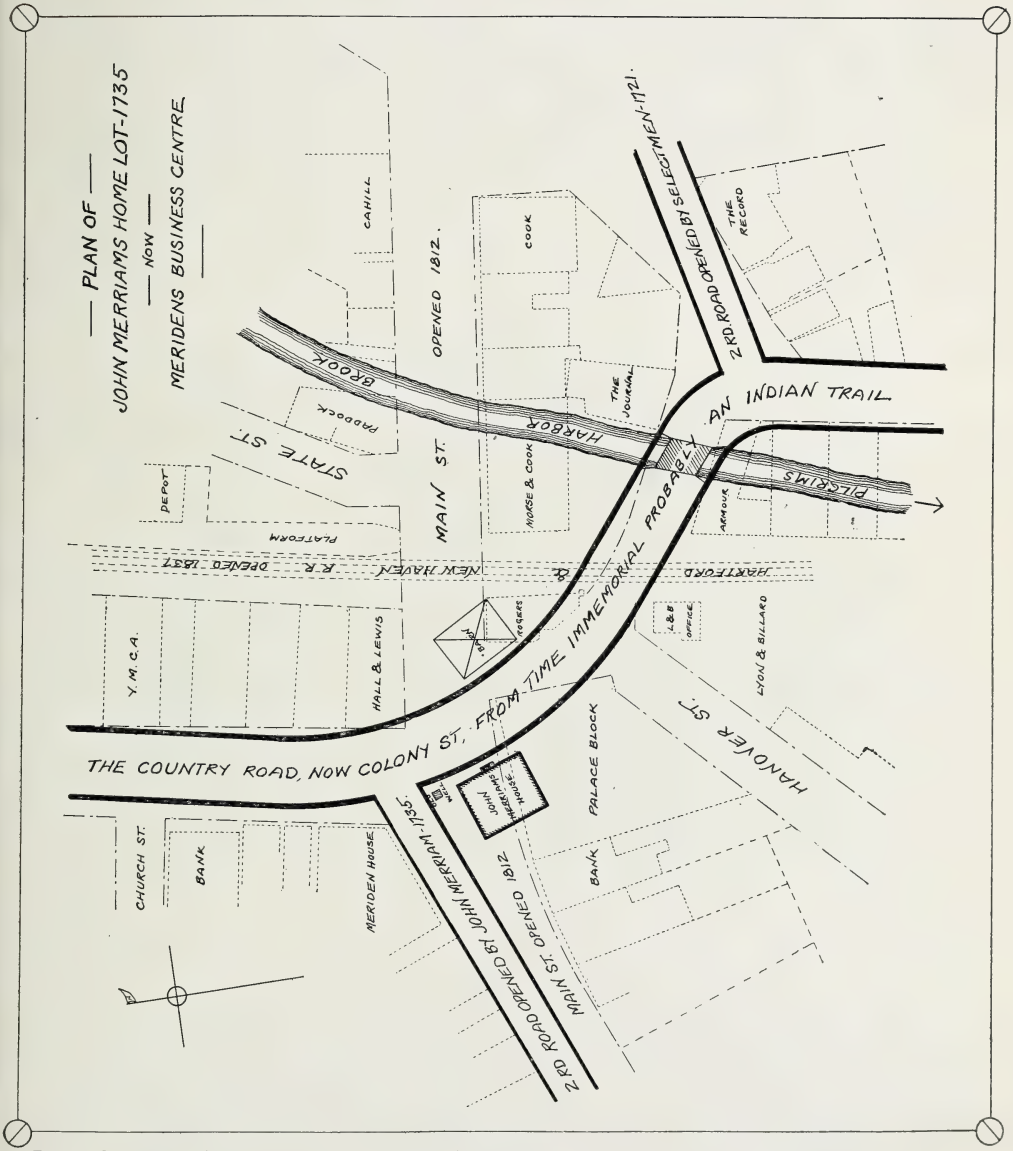
House, Home National Bank and the Wilcox block. The western side of the street before that date was about where the west car track lies. It was as narrow as South Colony street where it enters Main street between the Rogers block and the store of Griswold, Richmond & Glock. Would that some generous soul had made a like gift at that point! To properly understand the situation of John Merriam's house as first built one must divorce from one's mind East and West Main street. The house stood in a wilderness fronting Colony or the Country road that passed through Pilgrims' Harbor, and turned a little at this point, so as to cross the brook. It faced the east and there was no change until Mr. Merriam laid out the narrow road just north of his well. His barn stood on the other side of the Country road, in what he called his Harbor Meadow, and judging from inference only, the Rogers block must stand on part of its site. His apple orchard occupied the meadow northwest of the house and ran up the hill where the Corner school stands and back of the First Congregational church.[1] To properly understand the ancient layout of this, the most central and active business point of Meriden, a sketch has been prepared which will show at a glance what cannot be so clearly explained by words.

It is evident that the encroachment on Colony street had been nearly as great here as on the plain in Wallingford. But it took place long before any one now living was born.

We will not leave John Merriam[2] (the ancestor of all the Meriden families of that name) until we have given a few more facts concerning his career. He was born in Lynn, Mass., April 25, 1671, the son of William, of that place. He and his brother William (three years older) came to Connecticut in 1716. John bought the Bishop farm, as already told, while William settled in Cheshire in the vicinity of Roaring Brook or "West Rocks," as it was then called. John brought with him his half grown family consisting of four boys, Nathaniel, John, William and Joseph, and four daughters, Rebecca, Ruth, Abigail and Susanna. The family took a prominent place in the community and the sons, when they came of age, built their homes in Meriden, near or on their father's farm, and here they lived and brought up their families and their bodies lie buried in the old cemeteries on Meeting House hill and Broad street. There are four of the old Merriam houses still standing in Meriden: Nathaniel, the oldest son, in 1730 bought thirty acres of the Jones farm, lying east of his father's home and probably about the same time built his home which until about the year 1866 stood on the present site of St. Andrew's church. Here Captain Nathaniel lived and died, and his descendants after him;

1 An enormous apple tree, thirty-one inches in diameter through the trunk, four feet from the ground, stands back of the First Congregational church and just south of the residence of Mrs. George R. Curtis. It is not a modern *named* species and the fruit is worthless. It is perhaps one of those set out by John Merriam nearly 175 years ago; it certainly is very ancient.

2 The Merriam family is an entirely distinct and separate family from that of the Merrimans.



Drawn by James A. Toner, of City Engineer's office, from notes furnished by writer.

ANCIENT ROADS AND BUILDINGS OUTLINED IN HEAVY BLACK LINES.
MODERN BUILDINGS AND STREETS REPRESENTED BY DOTTED LINES.

until they moved away in 1800, when the house became the property of the Barnes family, and after them it was occupied by Cornelius Hull, until finally it was moved around to Miller street where it stands opposite the office of Manning, Bowman & Co.

The gambrel roof proclaims its age, but its shape alone is about all of the exterior that is old. The old stone chimney of giant proportions on the great hearths of which once blazed the fires that warmed and cheered Capt. Nathaniel, has long since disappeared and in its place stands a pigmy substitute for its great predecessor. But the sturdy rafters that Capt. Nathaniel put in place still support the



CAPT. NATHANIEL MERRIAM'S HOUSE.

roof, and the great hewn beams and joists are yet doing the duty they began 175 years ago.

The second Merriam house still standing is a very ancient one to all appearances, and was certainly built as early as 1744 and doubtless earlier. Age is depicted in every angle and line, but the great oaken beams and rafters are still as sound as the day they were cut and hewn in the surrounding forests, and bid fair to last another hundred years without any diminution of strength. The old stone chimney adds dignity and strength, and its massive base covers fifteen feet square in the cellar and the capacious old fireplaces have blazed with logs that would blush with shame if crowded into one of our modern fireplaces, were it possible to do so.

This house was built by Joseph, the youngest son, and is still occupied by a descendant—Edward M. Merriam, a great-great-grandson. It stands on Johnson avenue, perhaps half a mile west of the junction with West Main street, and it is necessary to climb a very steep hill before one can gaze on this venerable old monument of early days. The writer has explored it in all its ramifications and it bears the appearance of being in almost the original condition in which it was left when the last nail was driven by the carpenters of colonial days.

The third Merriam house has drifted from its ancient moorings and is now stranded on Camp street, No. 94, near the office of the H. T. Smith Express Co.,



JOSEPH MERRIAM'S HOUSE.

moved there by the late Horace T. Smith. It is so changed from its original appearance that one would never know it. William, the third son, lived in this house and it stood where the Home Club house is now located, at the corner of Colony and Foster streets. His father, John, presented the house to him with five and one-half acres of land on March 28, 1735. It is unquestionably the original house, for before its removal and alteration it bore every mark of antiquity, and many will remember its venerable appearance. Asaph, the grandson of William, here lived and reared his family and his sons, Selden, Sidney, Lauren[1] and Noah, were the ancestors of most of the Merriams of modern Meriden.

1 Lauren was the father of Lauren and Nelson and built a house that formerly stood near the house of the late George W. Lyon, 138 Colony Street. His farm extended west and included a large part of Grove Street. It was of him that so many Irishmen bought their building lots.

The fourth house, built by John, Jr., is in a condition that would distress its builder could he see it as it stands fronting the street—its joists and beams, like the ribs of some vertebrate monster of prehistoric days, exposed; and showing through them the interior is revealed to him who looks.

The old house is certainly a wreck and as it is now would be much better decently buried. It stands on the west side of South Colony street a short distance south of the plant of The Meriden Electric Light Co. The lot was bought by John, Jr., in 1737, of Stephen Atwater, and doubtless he built the house soon after. He lived there for several years, but after his father's death he sold it



JOHN MERRIAM, JR.'S HOUSE.

and it went through a succession of hands, finally becoming the home of Christopher Atwater. Early in the last century the property was acquired by Capt. Little. Of him children used to tell mysterious stories with bated breath. Afterwards it became the property of Alfred Snow. Then Florence W. Shelly was the owner and later it became the home of Kate McGlynn. It is now owned by John W. Coe and Emma L. Cook.

A fifth Merriam house was standing until within a year or two at the west side of the junction of Capitol avenue and West Main street. It was built probably about 1760 by Joseph, Jr., the son of the first Joseph. By people of the last century it was known as the Asahel Merriam place. He died many years ago and of late years the house had been deserted.

The question may arise, how can we be certain that these houses are the ones actually built and occupied by these different men? Of course there is no way to absolutely prove it. We have only probability to guide us. When an ancient house occupies what is known to be the site of the original one, the inference is that the present one is the original, without it can be shown that the first one was destroyed by fire or was grossly neglected. There is no reason why one of these old houses should not last indefinitely providing it has good care. The main cause of the destruction of old dwellings was that frequently there was no ventilation in the cellar. This caused the floor beams to decay and took the life from the foundation walls. In many cases the floor beams and sills have been replaced by new ones and the foundation walls reconstructed and recemented. One house in town, almost positively known to have been erected as early as 1740, is in the best state of preservation of any ancient dwelling in Meriden. This is because it has always had the best of care. With proper attention one of these old homes ought to last 500 years. The reason they do not get such care is because people want new homes, and the old ones have been sold to those who have not been able to expend much money in their preservation. There are houses in Hartford, Farmington, New London and other places that are known to have been built 250 years ago, and they are still capable of lasting much longer. There is one feature about the ancient dwellings of Meriden that makes it hard to form an estimate of their age. In the towns mentioned mud or clay mortar in foundation walls and chimneys is a sign of a very early building,[1] but in Meriden this method of construction was followed up to the beginning of the last century.

1 See page 186, "Early Connecticut Houses," by Isham and Brown; two Rhode Island architects, who have made an exhaustive study of the subject.

CHAPTER VIII.

In the story of Meriden Farm, related in Chapter II., we learned that Edward Higbee made a purchase of a large tract of land of Seaukett, Indian. This was in the year 1664 while he was probably a tenant on Mr. Gilbert's farm. In 1668 the colony confirmed this purchase by a grant that was much contracted from the boundaries given by Seaukett; but still Mr. Higbee and his successor, Mr. Cole, who bought the title in 1673, were in actual possession of at least 800 acres notwithstanding the colonial grant of only 257 acres. In other words, while in actual legal control of the colonial grant they were squatters on the rest of the farm.[1] Apparently no house was standing on Mr. Higbee's farm in 1668 but when he sold it to Henry Cole in 1673 the deed included "housing."

The Meriden boy's[2] composition written nearly sixty years ago, already quoted, said that the house of Hiram Foster was built in 1669. As the first Meriden ancestor of Mr. Foster acquired a large part of this old Cole or Higbee farm, and was the first purchaser to buy any portion of it, we may safely take it for granted that the house occupied by Hiram Foster, which stood on Colony street south of the junction with Kensington avenue, at what is now No. 464, was the one built by Edward Higbee about 1669; the date given in the composition fits in exactly with the records and is another proof of the accuracy of the schoolboy's information. This old house was no longer in existence when the composition was written and the present Foster house occupies the same site.

The residence of Mr. Cole on this farm made no impression on the records until his death on May 12, 1676. In that year the inventory of his estate was filed in the court of probate in New Haven. Although the owner of so large a farm his wealth was not large, for the land had probably been only slightly improved and land was worth but little until it had been cleared of forests and broken under the plough and until there was sufficient population to make a demand for farms. The inventory is curious and interesting for it shows how simple was the life of these early pioneers and how few of the comforts of life were in their possession.

1 There were undoubtedly many cases of this kind in the Colony. When the New Haven Committee in 1638 bought of Montowese "ten miles in length from North to South" they found whites already in possession of a portion of this territory and probably for a consideration the following clause was added at the end of the deed: "We, Robert Coggswell, Roger Knapp and James Love, doe hereby renounce all right to any and every part of the forementioned land;" this was duly signed by these men. See N. H. Colonial Records, Vol. I., p. 7.

2 The late Henry S. Wilcox.

AN INVENTORY OF YE ESTATE OF HENRY COLE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 12, 1676:

40 acres of land in Middletown bounds 20 lb: the farme by ye Road to Hartford 20 lb:	40:00:00
6 bush of indyan corne & some bedding	01:12:00
2 oxen 12 lb: 3 cows 12 lb: one 3 yeare old heifer 3 lb: a bull 4 yeares old 3 lb: a 2 yeare old steare 2 lb:	32:00:00
3 calves 30s: 7 swine at 5 lb 5s: 3 lesser swine 12s: a mare 30s: a two yeare old calf 1 lb:	09:17:00
A yeare old colt 15s: a feather bed, bolsters & the blanketts 4 lb 6s	05:01:00
3 blanketts 2 lb: a beare skin & deare skin 3s: bacon 1 lb: an iron pot 1 lb: an iron pot 15s:	04:18:00
A brass kettle 1 lb 2s: a brass skillett[1] 6s: In pewter 15s: 5 piggins[2] 9s: a can & wood bottle 3s:	02:15:00
A frying pan 5s: a payre of tongs tramells[3] & pot hooks 6s:	00:11:00
In porke 2 lb 3 bushs of wheat 13s 6d: 5 bushs & peck of Rye 1 lb 2s: 10 bushs Indyan Corn 30s:	05:05:06
A meate barrell 3s: a runlett[4] 2s: 13 dry caske 1 lb: a beare barrel 2s: 6d:	01:07:06
2 spinning wheels 8s: 2 chayrs 4s: a chest 8s: by wearing cloaths 2 lb:	03:00:00
2 payre of sheets 2 lb: homespun cloath 7 lb 7s: a bible 5s a payre of cards[5] 2s:	09:14:00
Cart, hoops, boxes, 1 lb 16s; chayne plow irons, span shakle 1 lb 10s:	03:06:00
2 guns 2 lb: powder & shott 18s: 2 swords 12s: 2 stubbing hoes & 4 hoes 12s:	04:02:00
2 broad hoes 8s: a saw 5s: 2 axes 5s: coopers tools 3 lb 10s:	04:08:00
	127:17:00

taken by us
NATHLL MERRIMAN,
ELISAPH PRESTON.

Henry Cole was a cooper, which accounts for the tools and large number of boxes, barrels, casks, etc. It is interesting to notice that there is no mention of a bedstead and that the total value of this large farm of at least 800 acres was only £20. The low valuation of the bear and deer skins show that "Hennerie" (as the old records sometimes quaintly called him) did not wander far from his door to obtain them. The mother with her ten children continued, probably, to reside on the farm until they were old enough to marry and move away. She then resided in Saybrook where she died in 1687. In that year a document was drawn up and signed by the various heirs, which appears on the probate records in New Haven in 1692.

1 A pan with feet and long handle.
2 Wooden dipper.
3 Implement in fireplace on which to hang culinary vessels.
4 Eighteen gallon barrel.
5 For carding wool.

"Wethersfield Jan ye 23 1687

Whereas there is a certaine estate in land & other personal estate formerly of Right belonging unto our honderd father Henry Cole sometyme since decd at Wallingford in ye late[1] colony of Connecticut in New England left in pt in ye possession of our honrd mother lately alsoe deceased at Saybrook wch sd estate had never yet orderly distribution between theire children. We therefore ye children of ye sd Henry Cole & his wife decd whose names are hereunto subscribed in order to a loving yssue of ye matter have mutually & unanimously agreed that ye sd estate shall be divided between all ye sd children in equall proportions. And to yt end have alsoe agreed to desire & Impower two of our Beloved Brethren with our trusty & beloved friend Nathl Royse of Wallingford aforesd to settle & distribute the same accordingly. And alsoe to make sale of a certaine parcell lying within ye Bounds of Middletown belonging to us containing by estimation twenty acres be it more or less. And having soe don to distribute ye effects unto us ye sd children

In wittness hereof that this is our unanimous agreement we have hereunto set or hands or marks this 23rd day of January Ano Dom one thousand six hundred eighty & seven

Samuell Cole
Aron Goofe
his mark
Rebekah Cole
her mark
John Stevens
Hannah Cole
the mark of
James Cole
Wm Cole
Samuel Taylor
Richd Goodale"

The husbands signed this document in place of those daughters who were married.

The two Beloved Brethren mentioned in the above document were James and William Cole, who continued to reside in this locality, James for a while in the homestead, while William took a farm on Clapboard Hill, south of the present residence of J. Hobart Yale on Yale avenue. John became a school teacher in Boston and Samuel lived in Wethersfield.

A curious question arises when considering the southern boundary of the Cole or Higbee farm. The colonial grant to Edward Higbee, which is recorded on the Middletown land records, says, "257 acres more or less abutting on Pillgrims Harbour River south till it comes to the way which goeth to New Haven & from

1 The word *late* refers of course to the usurpation of the Colonial government by Sir Edmond Andross at this time.

thence straight to a river at the end of the mountain which lyeth west." This would naturally lead one to believe that one side of the boundary was positively determined. On the other hand, when the General Court or Assembly granted a farm to James Bishop the following year his southern boundary was on a line running west from where "Pillgrims Harbor River comes to the way which goeth to New Haven." The natural inference would seem that James Bishop had bought up Higbee's claim to that particular tract, at least, for the southern boundaries cannot be the same for two distinct farms. But, unfortunately for this theory, we find that when Higbee sells his farm to Cole in 1673, he gives identically the same boundaries that are mentioned in his grant from the colony. Were there two crossings that might each be considered the "way that goeth to New Haven?" There were, if the following records can be interpreted in that way, and there seems to be no alternative. As already mentioned, the reason for staking the old north bounds of Wallingford in 1744 was because disputes had arisen between the farmers relative to land divisions. These contentions lasted some time, and in the year 1748 it was found necessary to take the deposition of Robert Royce who lived in what is now known as the Dr. Archer place in South Farms, then called Milking Yard or Royce's Farms. The fight had been carried to the General Assembly and Deacon Royce was either summoned to appear or else a special agent was sent to see him. The deposition now in the State Library at Hartford reads as follows:

"Robert Royce of Wallingford in y^e^ county of New Haven of full age Testifies and Says that he is now and hath been well acquainted for sixty years last past with the north line of the town of Wallingford as it was shown to him severall Times by Old Mr. Yale who Informed him he was with y^e^ Committee that Laid out the Township of Wallingford and that he hath been Severall Times appointed with old Capt Yale to Perambulate the line or lines of y^e^ Township, that the North West Corner, Something in Farmington, Bounds the line [* * * *] down to Pilgrims Harbour to a white wood stubb near where the Bridge now Stands which Stubb is the South West Corner of Jones's farm and so continues down to y^e^ South East Corner of Streets farm where Daniel Balding now Lives[1] and the Town farms were always laid south, up to the Said Described Line and that y^e^ Country farms that lay north of said Line were all bounded South on Said Line and that he is well knowing to y^e^ Improvement & Bounds of the farms both Country & Town Bounding on Said Line, and hath had Severall of them y^e^ Said Farms Committed to his Watch & Care and that the other supposed Road over the Harbour was nothing otherwise than a Road laid out by

1 John Yeamans place on Bee Lane.

Old Capt. Yale to accommodate Mr. Cole to go to Meeting and went by the name of Cole's path and this I often heard old Capt. Yale say, and further the Said Royce Saith not

Taken in Perpetuam rei Memoriam

ROBERT ROYS

Wallingford Feby 23rd 1747-48

Robert Roys personally appeared and made oath to the truth of the foregoing evidence before me

Nathl Stanly Assistant"

This document shows that there was another road that was considered by some as the "Way that Goeth to New Haven." James Cole is probably referred to and his home was at the corner of Colony street and Kensington avenue. To go to meeting for him meant to go to Wallingford for there was no church in Meriden until long after that early date. If he was looking for a short cut or a way to avoid the swamp and muck and mire that formerly existed at the Colony street crossing of Harbor Brook and to escape the sand flats beyond Yalesville, the natural way to go would lie somewhere near the present line of Center street, and after the summit of the hill was gained then down Broad[1] and Curtis streets, and so on to Wallingford. When what is now called Curtis street was laid out in 1721, the records state that it "goes as the road now goes up Pole Hill"[2] and is 6 rods wide, and runs north to the end of the bounds, or "Wallingford North bounds." In other words the selectmen were following an ancient road and were merely adopting it as one of the town highways; and when Rev. Theophilus Hall laid out Broad street from Curtis street to the new meeting house in 1752, which he was then building, he simply sequestered this same path or road that led just west of the church and then down to Liberty street—the Wallingford north bounds. Could this path from North Colony street down Center, Broad and Curtis streets have been in existence before Capt. Yale marked it out for Mr. Cole to go to meeting? If he *laid* it out, he was laying out in the Center street part a path in territory that did not belong to Wallingford until nearly fifty years later.[3] If he was *marking* out a highway that had already been in existence he was merely performing the part of a surveyor, which position he held. Now there was a road other than Colony street, evidently at an earlier date, that is mentioned in the ancient records.

1 Broad Street south of the junction with Curtis Street was not laid out then.

2 The hill down which the southern parts of Curtis and Broad Streets descend was called Pole Hill.

3 Laying out a road or path in those early days in many locations meant simply to "blaze" and cut out a few trees and bushes. One could not easily follow such a path through the trackless forests without some one constantly renewed these marks and "blazes."

At a General Court for New Haven March 12, 1654-55, "Mr. Goodyear was desired when he goes to Conecticote to go the new way & take notice of it and let the Court understand how he finds it & that if they see cause they may send forty men to mark it out." The southern boundary of the Cole farm was certainly almost, if not quite, on a line drawn due west from Center street bridge. It is a problem that is not now possible to solve. But certainly the evidence looks as if Mr. Higbee thought that about where Center street bridge is now located was where the "way that goeth to New Haven" was located.

The beloved brethren and trusty friend, Nathaniel Royce, did not soon find customers or purchasers for the Cole farm. The power of attorney authorizing them to sell the farm was executed in 1687 and not until January 29, 1707-8 did they sell a rood. On that date they sold to Bartholomew Foster, of Wethersfield, ship carpenter, "2-10 of that howle farm known as Cools Farme set on Country road near South side of Belcher's Farme." Mr. Foster was originally from Gloucester, Mass., where he was born about 1649, and where he remained until 1696: he was engaged in the ship building business. Then he came to Wethersfield and made a purchase of John Curtis of a piece of land with a "Mansion house" on it. There he probably made the acquaintance of some of the Cole family and was persuaded to buy a part of the farm in Meriden.[1] He bought more during the two or three years following. Bartholomew Foster came to Meriden with his two sons, Thomas and Timothy, and the family has always been prominent and influential. When the church was formed Bartholomew was active and conspicuous in the negotiations and served on various committees, such as purchasing a farm for the new minister, etc. When considering these two adjoining farms of the Fosters and Merriams and their neighbors the thought strikes one that the name of a prominent manufacturing company of to-day applies with peculiar descriptive force to the community on Colony or Country road in those early days, viz. Foster, Merriam & Co.

Meantime, an agreement appeared on the Wallingford records under date of March 12, 1708, whereby the Cole heirs divided the farm into ten parts, five parts on each side of the Country road. It would be tedious to follow up the different transfers but we will notice one or two items relating to the farm that are curious: One of the heirs was Samuel Taylor, of Wethersfield, who had married a daughter of Mr. Cole. His share of 1-10 was 80 acres and it lay in the southern part adjoining the Merriam farm on the south. Mr. Taylor died in February, 1711-12, and his portion of the Cole farm was inventoried as "Farm

1 None of these ancient Foster houses are now in existence. Thomas, by the terms of his father's will, got the house standing at the corner of Colony Street and Kensington Avenue previous to 1848, while the house of Timothy stood probably on what is now the property of the State School for Boys where it fronts on Colony Street.

in the woods called Cole's farm, 80 acres, £20." It is on file in the records of the court of probate, Hartford, and there is no location given other than that quoted. Aaron Goffe, of Wethersfield, who had married another of Mr. Cole's daughters, had an inventory which mentioned his 100 acres near Pilgrims' Harbor as worth four shillings.

For nearly a hundred years if there was a transfer of any part of this great farm of Henry Cole's the deed always mentioned that the land was a part of Cole farm. By the year 1725, after two or three transfers, that part of the Cole farm that had belonged to Samuel Taylor became the property of Josiah Robinson.



CAPT. JOSIAH ROBINSON'S HOUSE FROM S. W.

Note condition of Colony Street in 1876.

He bought some adjoining land until he had a farm of more than 100 acres. It fronted along Colony street, beginning at about where the Meriden Silver Plate Co. factory now stands and running up to, perhaps, where the residence of Arthur S. Lane is located, No. 341. Mr. Robinson's house was located where now stands the home of Mr. E. J. Doolittle, No. 285. The farm stretched off towards the east across Harbor Brook and nearly to Hobart street line. There is evidence that he built his home shortly after he bought the farm, and it continued to stand there until 1876, when Mr. Doolittle bought the house and lot and demolished the building. From its enormous chimney, which was a regular quarry, he was

able to build the whole foundation of his present house and wall up the brook on both sides, that flows in the rear, and had a quantity of stone left to sell. Of all the ancient houses in Meriden, it was the largest so far as we know.

Mr. Robinson[1] was an important man in the community and for those times had considerable wealth. He was captain of the train band and was always called Capt. Robinson, and in 1750 was one of the delegates to the General Assembly for the town of Wallingford. For many years his house was the tavern of the parish.[2] He had five slaves at the time of his death named Phoebe, Lemmon, Rose, Primus and Jennie, who probably helped take care of the farm or waited on guests in the inn. The house in its day must have been a fine one and its size made it imposing even in age. The addition in the rear was perhaps made by General Walter Booth who owned and lived in the house from 1816 to 1843. It was doubtless a tin shop as he, in his younger days, was engaged in that business.



CAPT. JOSIAH ROBINSON'S HOUSE FROM N. W.

The first notice we find that Capt. Josiah Robinson's house was an inn appears in the records of New Haven county court in 1751. At the April session each year licenses were issued and duly recorded. In 1763 Ames' Almanac began to give a list of the different post roads and towns between New York and Boston with the names of the best taverns.

Robinson's is the only name given for Meriden and it continues so until the year 1811. It is the only one mentioned in Meriden by Green's "State

1 Captain Robinson probably came here from Dorchester, Mass., perhaps through the influence of Bartholomew Foster.

2 There is a tradition that General Washington stopped at this inn. Perhaps he did; but if we are to believe all the traditions relating to the houses in New England, that are said to have been honored by the presence of General Washington at one time or another, we are forced to the conclusion that instead of attending to the military affairs of the Colonies and later assuming the duties of Chief Magistrate of the Nation he was spending his time in haunting the hostelries and was better fitted to

Register," an accurate and reliable publication full of statistics relating to Connecticut. Capt. Robinson died in 1766 and left an estate valued at £1636. He owned 261 acres of land, but not in a connected tract. He had a law library containing eleven volumes, so that he probably occupied somewhat the position of a legal luminary among his neighbors. Back of the house, which was valued at £165, stood a barn, a horse house, a Dutch barn[2] and a malt house. The inn was continued by his son, Josiah, until 1771 when he died also. He had evidently lived a rapid pace or been unfortunate in his investments, for his estate was found to be insolvent and a list of his creditors contained the name of almost every man in the parish. The two widows (the elder being the daughter of John Merriam) continued the tavern for some time. It then went into a succession of hands who all ran it under the name of "Robinson's;" among them Caleb Bull, Seth D'Wolf and Giles Foster. Finally Jotham Mitchell owned and lived in it until his son-in-law, General Walter Booth, bought it in 1816. Then its fame as an inn ceased and it was used by General Booth only as a residence until 1843, when he sold it to Deacon Elah Camp. He sold it and one acre of land to Keyes S. Hathaway in 1852. Mr. Hathaway lived there until 1876 and then sold it to E. J. Doolittle, who pulled it down. North of Capt. Robinson's farm was a strip of land belonging to Bartholomew Foster, which ran up to the road that is now called Britannia street. North of this was a tract of some 140 acres which was taken by Aaron Goffe, of Wethersfield, in the settlement of the Cole estate. Nothing was done with the land until Solomon Goffe bought his brothers' interest in the property in 1711 after his father's death. The deed, recorded only in Wethersfield, reads that the farm is in the woods and bounds west on the Country road and extends north, east and south. Truly a somewhat indefinite description. Mr. Goffe moved to Meriden and built his house in 1711, that is still on the east side of Colony street a little north of the Griswold street junction and is now known as the Samuel Clark place. It is undoubtedly the oldest house in Meriden and certainly has a venerable appearance. We know nothing about Mr. Goffe except that he lived here ten years, married a Wallingford girl, Mary Doolittle, and the birth of one child is recorded. In 1721 he sold the place to Thomas Andrews, of Wallingford, who, apparently, lived there until 1729, when he sold it to Jonathan Collins, of Middletown. The old house was enlarged, perhaps soon after Mr. Collins bought it, for the addition looks as old as the rest, but

write a guide book to New England, giving the names of the best taverns than to be called the father of his country. He may have stopped here to get a bite or quench his thirst but there is no record of the fact, notwithstanding that an itinerary of his travels has been published. When journeying to Boston in 1775 to take charge of the armies (his first trip through New England) he left New Haven in the morning and reached Springfield that night. The larger towns of Hartford and New Haven were so near that it is very doubtful if he ever stopped at Robinson's.

2 A hay house with no sides, but with a roof supported by four corner posts.

that there has been an addition is plain to be seen. The dormer windows in the old gambrel roof are probably a later addition, and there have been apparently some changes in the interior. That the house is the one built by Solomon Goffe will be apparent to any one who will examine the old rafters and the huge floor beams. The chimneys in the cellar are enormous and the stones were cemented with clay mixed with straw as were the foundation walls, a sure sign of an early house; another indication of age is the split laths, used in very early houses. The Collins family continued to own the house until 1796 when a son, Jonathan,



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

JONATHAN COLLINS' HOUSE.

Jr.,[1] sold it to Samuel Taylor of Chatham. Mr. Taylor doubtless lived in it until 1806 when he sold it to his son-in-law, Partrick Clark. The Clark family own the house and farm to this day although they no longer live in it. It is now rented to a German named Charles Hackbarth.

Jonathan Collins was the son of Robert, of Middletown, and the father came to Meriden two years earlier than the son.

1 This Jonathan Collins removed to Turin, N. Y., where he became very prominent

In the settlement of Henry Cole's estate the son, John, who was a school teacher in Boston, took 350 acres on the west side of Country road just opposite the Solomon Goffe farm. It had a frontage on the road of 2,270 feet, and extended south nearly to the Meriden Firearms plant and ran north quite a ways beyond the Waterbury railroad crossing. It extended in the west quite to Cat Hole mountain. In 1721 Mr. Cole sold the farm to Samuel Butler and Dr. Ebenezer Cooper, and these gentlemen apparently built a house on it and probably lived in it. Dr. Cooper was so far as we can learn the first physician to live in Meriden. The deed calls him a "phititian." He afterwards lived in the southeastern part of Meriden and on December 30, 1739, Rev. Theophilus Hall baptized his son Thomas. Beyond these three entries we know nothing about him. In 1727 Butler and Cooper sold the farm to Robert Collins,[1] of Middletown. He came here with his two younger sons, Robert and Edward. The house he bought with the farm was late in the century sold to Joseph Twiss, of Cheshire, the ancestor of the Twiss family in Meriden. It stood near the northern limits of the farm close to the Country road and this part of the farm was some years since the links of the Meriden Golf Club. The old house was destroyed by fire a great many years ago.

In 1737 Robert Collins gave to his son, Edward, a tract of land containing 100 acres, in the southern part of the farm, and probably very soon after Edward built his house, for on Aug. 29, 1738, he married Susannah Peck, of Wallingford, and his home was in the house now occupied by Junius S. Norton, at 596 Colony street.

The house is a very ancient one, unquestionably, although it has been greatly altered. The picture shows it as it was some twenty years ago. Even then it had been greatly changed from its original condition. The front door was at first in the middle of the street side, but at the date of the picture was on the south side. The old house is in somewhat the condition of the boy's jack knife: a new blade and a new handle, but still the same old knife. The great chimney, cemented by clay mortar, and the old split laths still to be seen in the attic, are unquestionable evidences of its age. Here was born on February 16, 1741, Dan Collins, afterwards known as Capt. Dan, who was a very prominent figure in Meriden early in the last century. He married in 1774 Susannah, the daughter of Esq. Aaron Lyman, and lived in the old Lyman home that stood on East Main street, east of Broad street, and was pulled down many years ago. That farm is still Collins property. The Edward Collins house had a number of owners before it came into the possession of Mr. Norton. It was sold late in the eighteenth century to Reuben Stocking and by him in a few years to Ira Yale.

1 He was born in Branford in 1668.

It later became the home of a Mr. Tennant and Mr. Norton bought it of the late Eli Butler. North of the Collins farm on the same side of the road was another large tract of land reaching to the road or laneway that runs west from the residence of Edward Higginson, already described as the southern boundary of the Belcher or Meriden Farm. It contained 400 acres and extended west 400 rods, or 6,600 feet, and had a frontage on Colony street of 150 rods or 2,475 feet.

The Cole heirs sold it in 1710 to John Burroughs, of Stratfield, a grandson of Edward Higbee, a previous owner. Burroughs' son, Edward, sold to Richard Hubbell 120 acres of this land—the south part—and he to John



EDWARD COLLINS' HOUSE.

Dennie, a rich Boston merchant in 1734, and Mr. Dennie immediately built a house that is still standing, once called the Stephen Bailey place, but by many known as the Grimes house. It stands about a quarter of a mile north of the Waterbury railroad crossing on the west side of Colony street on a high bank with a stone wall in front, and is shaded by several large maple trees. That Mr. Dennie never lived here is certain, and he must have leased the farm to some one in Meriden. The house does not look as old as it is, for it has been newly clapboarded and painted. But let any one examine it from cellar to attic as the writer has done, and he will soon be convinced of its age.

In some respects it is the oldest appearing house in Meriden. It is very primitive in its construction, and on the second floor only one room has been done off and that is on the south side. On the north side an addition has been built, very roughly, in such a way that the ancient oak clapboards are part of the inside finish. The inside walls are mostly boarded over and around the mantels there is some paneling. There was originally no ventilation in the cellar and as a result the huge oak sills and many of the floor beams decayed and have had to be replaced by new ones. Late in the eighteeenth century the farm was bought by Stephen Bailey (1795), and remained in that family for many years. It is now the property of William Nelson and is occupied by a Dane named James Rasmersson.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

STEPHEN BAILEY'S HOUSE.

The northern part of this 400 acre tract, belonging to John Burroughs originally, eventually became the property of the Yales and was by them sold to the Edwards family of Middletown. On the old road described as running west from the old Eli Way, or now Edward Higginson farm, stands a poor, forlorn old house, bereft of its sides and looking the picture of desolation. It stands about three hundred feet west from Colony road and is on the north side of the old road or laneway. It is shaded by large maple trees and has a forbidding and sinister aspect, as if its old walls had once hidden some mystery. It is a very old house and was built by one of the Belchers, probably by the governor,

and thus dates previous to 1741. It was standing when the farm was bought by John Yale.

Here lived the Jonathan Edwards family for many years, and their interests seem to have been more closely identified with Middletown than with Meriden parish. At the end of the eighteenth century the farm was bought by James Avery Hough, and the old house was identified with that family for many years. In the middle of the last century it was the home of Cyrenus Booth. For several years now the house has been abandoned and it is only a question of time before it will follow the way of all the earth.

On Colony street stood, until some ten or fifteen years ago, an old house known as the Eli Way place, which has been mentioned many times as opposite



Photo by R. S. Godfrey. JOSEPH EDWARDS' HOUSE.

the old Kensington road. In the division of the Cole estate a tract of 50 acres was sold to Thomas Miles, blacksmith, in 1713. In every case when the Cole heirs sold a portion of their farm it was necessary for the purchaser to pay toll to Wallingford by buying her Indian right acquired from Adam Puit, so that the Cole title was not considered valid without buying Wallingford's title. Generally this secondary charge was paid by the Cole heirs. Thomas Miles was no exception to the rule and we find him buying or at least acquiring a secondary

deed from Wallingford's commissioners. His north line abutted on the Belcher estate and the farm was on the Country road on the east side and the old Way house stood on this tract. That he lived on the farm is not probable for when he disposed of it in 1724 to James Scovill, of Middletown, no house is mentioned in the deed. But when Mr. Scovill sold the farm to Eden Burroughs in 1733, a dwelling house was included. As the Way house was very ancient in appearance it is possibly the one built by Mr. Scovill. The farm was sold in 1742 to Asa Yale and by him in 1745 to Samuel Yale. Without stopping to give all the transfers we will state that in 1796 it was sold to Elisha Cowles, the father of Major Elisha A. and Roswell Cowles.

Mr. Cowles was a mason by trade and probably made many of the old gravestones in the Broad street cemetery and doubtless many of the old chimneys and foundations in Meriden were the results of his labors. North of this house on the west side of the road there is a ledge which looks as if much stone had been quarried from it. After his death the house and farm was sold by the heirs to John B. Douglass and it did not become a Way place until sold to Eli by Avery Hough in 1823. To the writer it seems probable that the house was built by Elisha Cowles, the old one having disappeared in the description in one deed.

Just south of the Jonathan Collins farm, now the Samuel Clark place, and north of the strip owned by Josiah Robinson, was a small farm of thirty acres belonging to Jacob Parsons; it fronted west on Colony street and there was a house on it that disappeared long ago. Parsons bought it of Thomas Andrews in 1722, who at that time was the owner of the farm that he later sold to Jonathan Collins.

In the northern part of the Burroughs tract of 400 acres on the west side of the Country road, and just south of the Belcher farm, was a small tract of some thirty acres that was about 1720 sold to Timothy Jerome and on which he was living at that time, although the tract was shortly after acquired by the Edwards family.

The first farms and houses on Colony street have now been located and it can be seen that the owners formed a community by themselves. Until 1728 the territory was not formally made a part of Wallingford, although paying taxes in that town. These farms were far away from Wallingford church and all the conveniences of that community, and the situation must have at times been irksome. On October 8, 1724, they presented the following petition to the General Court then assembled at New Haven:

"The Humble petition of the Subscribers Humbly Sheweth

That we are under great disadvantages for want of a Pound nere y^{e} Merriden

or Stone House and are compelled to drive unruly Cattell nere 6 or 9 miles to y^e^ nearest pound which if we had one nere it would save us a Great Deal of troble and we would carry the marks and brands of those Cattell impounded where the Law directs, to the next towns unless the Honorable assembly, would pleas to Constitute a man among us to Despose of Unruly Creatures as the Law directs.

Therefor your Humble Petitioners Pray that there may be order for a Pound near y^e^ Meriden, or Stone House, and an officer to Despose of impounded Cattell and your Petitioners as in duty bound will Ever Pray

N. Merriam	J. Parsons
N Merriam Jr	Eleazer Aspinwall
Wm Merriam	J. Merriam Jr.
Tim^o^ Foster	B. Foster
J. Robinson	T. Andrews
Thos. Foster	D. Rich
T. Jerrum	J. Scofell."

That this petition was granted cannot be learned.

Eleazer Aspinwall was, at this time, a tenant on Meriden or Stone House farm, and it is probable that David Rich was also. Thus we have followed up the grants to the different owners and located all the farms on Colony street and in several instances the titles have been carried to the present day. Meriden was settled in a manner so different from most New England towns that it has seemed to the writer better to locate the different farms in the parish of Meriden, so that when we come to the formation of the church and scan the roll of those faithful pioneers who wished a church in their very midst, we may know who they were, where they lived, and have a fair general idea of the topography of the country. To the writer the old houses are of a peculiar interest for they connect us with the past as nothing else does. If one of our forefathers could return to his former home and walk about our streets busy with the hum of modern life, how much would he find as he left it? The old highways have changed their courses, or been closed and new ones opened. The whole face or topography of the country he would find greatly changed. Where was woodland, now lie broad fields, and where he left meadows and pastures, are blocks of houses and factories. With the exception of the eternal hills standing like sentinels on each side of the town, and a few old houses, nothing would be as it was when he closed his eyes forever.

Something of pathos should swell within our breasts as we gaze on these old homes, the only visible reminders of an age that is gone, of names that have

vanished and of hands that have been dust these hundred years. They are the only witnesses of a life that we know no more—a life of simple pleasures and primitive conditions. The phantoms of many generations pass before our eyes, generations that were once as we are now, busy with their ceaseless round of joy and sorrow, of marrying and burying, of feasting and mourning, of laughter and weeping and of play and work. And these old houses have seen it all. Through the door of each have passed the husband and wife, newly wed, the first to call it home; and then, children's feet have pattered through, and children grown to men and women have hastened hence to build them other homes. And so, one generation after another, they have come and gone, and still the old house stands, perhaps sheltering people of an alien race, and sometimes descended to uses that are low. And the names of those who built them and first lived within their walls have been entirely forgotten, and all that is left to tell us are a few old musty records, with only a name and a date, as witnesses that they have ever lived. And, as with these old houses, so will ours be soon. Other lives will be passed beneath their roofs; and our names—only a memory, and soon utterly forgot.



PORCH OF THE OLD WILLIAM JOHNSON PLACE, ON JOHNSON AVENUE.

CHAPTER IX.

The boundaries of Deputy Governor Jones' large farm have already been described. Naturally he did not live in Meriden but, nevertheless, he must have made frequent visits of inspection to ascertain the condition of his farm and to see that it was properly cared for. In charge of it he placed Captain Thomas Yale of Wallingford. Just a glimpse of the relations of the two men is given in a deposition made in 1757 by Theophilus Yale, the son of Capt. Thomas.

"About y^e^ year 1740 I went with Mr. Hitchcock y^e^ County Surveyor and Deacon Robert Roys upon y^e^ Desire of Dan^ll^ Baldwin to Wallingford North West corner bounds and we run from thence eastward along by y^e^ line of Marked Trees which my Hon^rd^ father Thomas Yale informed me was Wallingford North Line untill we came to Pilgrims Harbour bridge which my s^d^ father informed me was y^e^ place where people Constantly pased over, and then we came to y^e^ Southwest corner of Mr. Jones'es Farm which farm was Laid out in y^e^ Country Land (So Caled) and then we continued y^e^ same course as far Eastward as y^e^ South East corner of Mr. Streets farm now Dan^ll^ Baldwins * * * I remember when I was young y^t^ Mr Jones Desired my father to take care of his s^d^ farm and renew y^e^ bounds, and when my father was old Mr Jones Desired him to take me with him and Shew me y^e^ bounds of y^e^ farm, and I remember I often went with my father to renew y^e^ bounds of s^d^ Jones'es farm. I see all y^e^ bounds thereof and well remember y^t^ y^e^ south bounds of s^d^ farm joyned on Wallingford north line," etc., etc.[1] Theophilus was at that time 82 years old.

Of course in this deposition Theophilus was speaking of the Colonial grant. After the death of Mr. Jones the farm remained intact until 1722 when the heirs divided it.

It would be tedious to follow these divisions, so we will take the year 1735 as a convenient date to show the ownership of this great farm.

It requires a good bit of imagination to go back and see in one's mind's eye what it looked like then—a stretch of meadow and woodland, with scarcely a house in all the great tract. All roads and streets must be obliterated from one's mind except the old Liberty street running east from Pilgrims' Harbor bridge; and Curtis street running in its present course and coming down to Liberty a little east of the course of present Center street and so on to North Colony road. The farm of 30 acres belonging to Captain Nathaniel Merriam has already been de-

1 Colonial Lands, Vol. VIII., p. 170, State Library.

scribed. It fronted on the north side of Liberty street and extended as far east as the Meriden High school property, his barn probably standing on the site of that building. His land was bounded north and west on Harbor Brook.

The next farm was that of Timothy Jerome. It also fronted on Liberty street on the north side; it extended as far east as present School street and was bounded on the north by Harbor Brook. His house stood very nearly on the site of the present Walter Hall house, No. 202 Liberty street. How long it continued to stand cannot be told, but shortly after his death in 1750, his son, Samuel, built a house that was standing until ten or twelve years ago and will be remembered by many as the Upson place, just south of the residence of the late Reuben T. Cook, No. 608 Broad street. Before Broad street was opened in 1799, Wall street joined Liberty street near what is now the south end of Hobart street, and passed between the house and barn of Timothy Jerome, as is told in the layout of Wall street, made by the selectmen in 1739.

The Samuel Jerome house formerly faced south on this old extension of Wall street to Liberty, and when Broad street was projected in 1799, there was at first the suggestion that the house would have to be moved farther west, which was finally avoided by moving the road slightly to the east. When Broad street was widened in 1869, it left this old house jutting into the road eighteen feet, and the common council ordered it moved back. So it was shifted twenty-five feet to the rear and turned at right angles so as to face Broad street, at which time it lost its old stone chimney. It has been impossible to obtain a picture of this old Samuel Jerome place. Timothy, the father, emigrated to America about 1717 and he evidently came directly to Meriden. He was probably from the Isle of Wight and the family is believed to have been of Huguenot origin. As already noted, he seems to have lived at first on a tract of land just south of Meriden farm and he bought his portion of the Jones farm in 1722. Timothy was a man of considerable wealth for at the time of his death in 1750 his inventory included four slaves, named Pomp, Rose, Jenny and Prince.

The valuation placed on these slaves was enormous, viz: £460, £295, £190 and £95 respectively. This was because the value of the currency was at that time much depreciated. His wearing apparel included such articles as a straight bodied coat of pale blue, a red vest of bayse, a black vest of callimanco and leather breeches; mixed colored coat and vest, a beaver hat, etc., etc.

Altogether Timothy Jerome must have been very smartly attired when arrayed for meeting or expecting guests; and he must have often had friends at his home who were not disinclined to hilarity, if we may judge from the list of seven punch bowls, a case of bottles, large drinking glasses and sixteen pewter tankards mentioned in his inventory.

It should interest all to know that the brilliant district attorney of New York, William Travers Jerome, is a descendant of Timothy in the sixth generation.

Chauncey Jerome, the well known clock manufacturer of New Haven fifty years ago, was also descended from Timothy. Samuel Jerome moved to Stockbridge, Mass., and sold his farm to Abel Curtis in 1771, and Abel later gave a considerable portion of it to his son Levi, who lived in the old house many years. It was bought years ago by Benjamin Upson, and his widow died in it in 1888 at the ripe old age of ninety-six.

That part of the Jones farm that was south of Liberty street became the property of Stephen Atwater from New Haven and Daniel Harris. Atwater's part was bounded west on Colony street, north on Liberty, south on Olive and it extended east as far as Pleasant street. His house stood at the junction of Olive and Colony streets on the south side, on a piece of land bought of Eleazer Peck. This old house disappeared many years ago. His farm extended also across Harbor brook to the west, probably as far as Cook avenue. This Atwater[1] family continued to dwell here until the beginning of the last century.

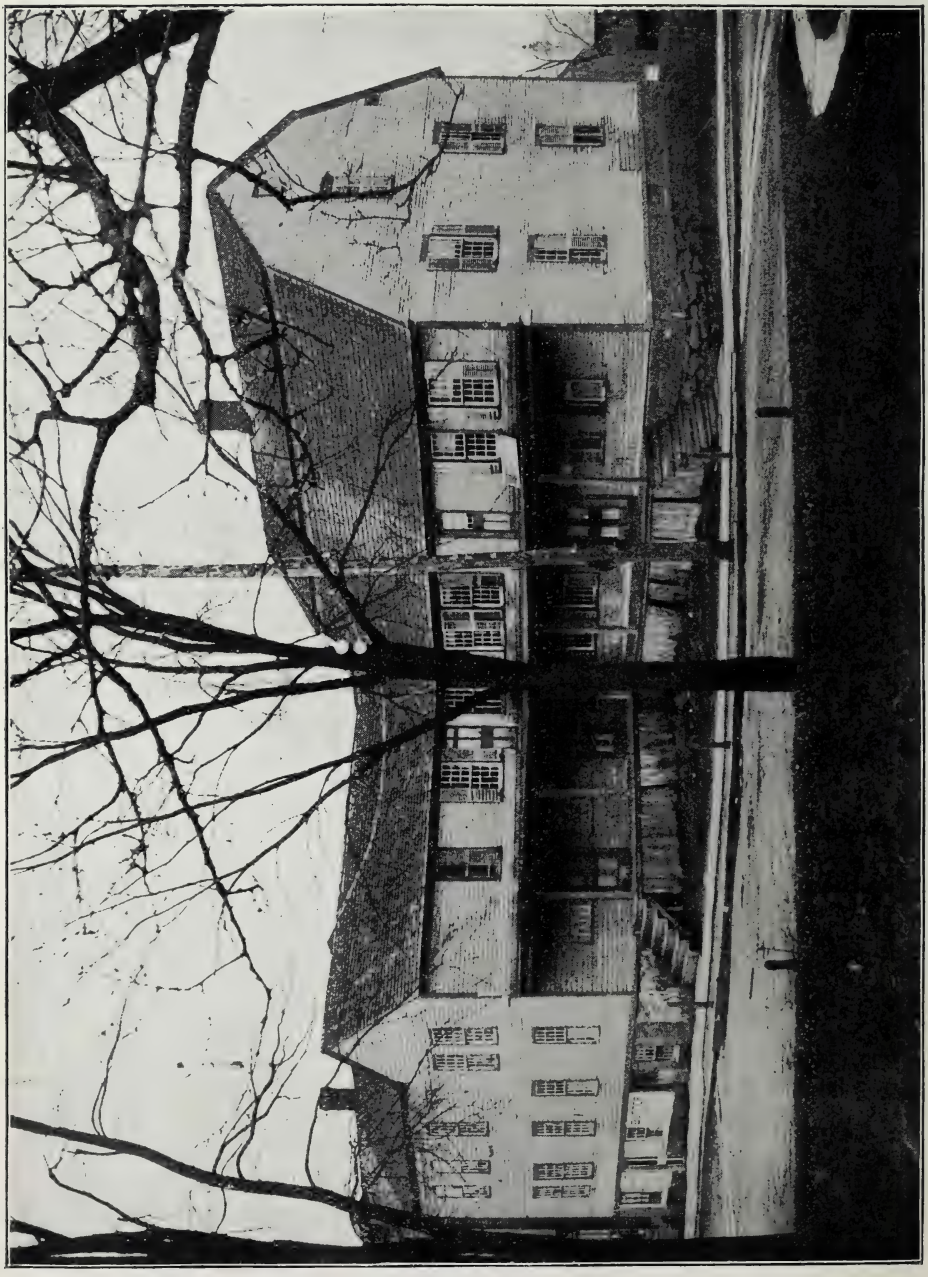
Daniel Harris came here from Durham and bought the east half of this southern portion of the Jones farm as early as 1726. He continued to hold it until 1739 when he sold sixty acres to Rev. Theophilus Hall, together with a house and a barn on it. There is a tradition that the parson built the old house, afterwards known as the Central tavern in 1752 for his son Samuel. As this son was only thirteen years old at that date it cannot be that there is any truth to the tradition. It seems much more probable that this building was the one standing when he bought the farm of Daniel Harris.

Samuel was only twenty-eight years old when his father died in 1767, and the house with adjoining land was left to him in the will, as well as the barn, which stood not far from the site of the Broad street Baptist church. The house certainly was a very ancient building and as the parson's home was where the Willard Hall house now stands, south of the junction of Curtis and Ann streets, on the southeast corner, there seems to have been no reason for building the old house in 1752. It is probable then that it was the one built by Daniel Harris as early as 1730, at least. Of course, this refers to that part covered by the gambrel roof only. The rest of the house was evidently a combination of after thoughts, built as the demands of the tavern increased, by Dr. Insign or his son, Dr. Isaac I. Hough.

The house was the scene of many an interesting event in the early history of the town, although its importance as a tavern was not until after 1811 when Robinson's ceased to be mentioned. It stood on the site of the residence of Francis Atwater, No. 510 Broad street.

The eastern boundary of the Harris farm was a line perhaps four hundred

1 This Stephen Atwater was a descendant of the New Haven family of that name very prominent there: One of the name, Jonathan, was one of the richest men of the Colony.



THEOPHILUS HALL HOUSE, LATER THE HOUGH OR CENTRAL TAVERN.

feet east of and parallel to the old Curtis street which ran on the western edge of the present Broad street and would, if now in existence, run through the western part of the Center Congregational church.

Aaron Lyman came here from Durham about the year 1732 and bought a portion of the Jones farm both north and south of the old Liberty street. His farm at first consisted of 130 acres and it lay just east of the Harris-Hall tract, and extended south a little beyond the present Charles street and north considerably beyond Wall street. It extended on the east to the top of the hill beyond



AARON LYMAN PLACE.

Orient street. His home stood about 200 feet northwest of the house now occupied by Benjamin W. Collins, 450 East Main street.

This house was torn down about thirty years ago and much of the timber is now in Mr. Collins' barn. The picture is a reproduction of a crayon drawing and is a faithful representation of this ancient house. Mr. Lyman was an important man in the community and possessed of large wealth for those days. The old probate records bear abundant evidence of the numerous positions of trust he was called on to fill. He was twice married and left only one child at his death who was the wife of Captain Dan Collins and it was thus that the Collins family

became identified with this part of Meriden, and all evidence of the former residence on North Colony road was forgotten. Esq. Lyman largely increased his land holdings and at one time his farm extended down, east of Meeting House hill, running over on what was then known as Little Success hill, which is east of and just about as high as Meeting House hill. The home of Charles Z. Murdock stands on the southern slope of Little Success hill. Esq. Lyman also bought a part of the Jerome estate and his farm extended north as far as the residence of Dexter W. Parker, No. 816 North Broad street. Many acres of the old farm are still in the possession of the Collins family.

Daniel Baldwin, of Milford, came to Meriden about 1725, and bought a farm in the eastern part that was bounded on the south by the old Liberty street that



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

DANIEL BALDWIN, OR JOHN YEAMANS PLACE.

has been described. It was a part of a farm that had been granted to Rev. Samuel Street, of Wallingford, in 1680, by the colonial government at the same time that Deputy Governor Jones was given his farm. This Street estate was just east of the Jones tract, from which it was separated by the south branch of Pilgrims' Harbor brook, or Willow Hill brook as it is now sometimes called. Daniel Baldwin immediately built his house, and the old building is still in existence and is still sound and staunch and good for many years more.

Daniel died in 1777 and half the house and a number of acres were given by his will to his daughter, Lois, the wife of John Yeamans, and later Mr. Yeamans bought the remainder of the land adjoining and the other half of the house and

here he and his son and grandson lived many years. The house is still called the Yeamans place. Daniel had a saw mill on the brook west of his home. The old place is now the property of Fred A. Baumann.

The house looks lonesome, standing as it does in the meadow, with scarcely another within view. The old road on which it formerly faced has long been closed, although it can still be traced distinctly in its course to the east; that part was in use long after the western portion had become private property.

North of the Daniel Baldwin tract was another great farm that was bought by John Way at a date as early as 1725. The house stood on what is now known



DR. ALEXANDER WOLCOTT, NATHANIEL PENFIELD, OR WILLIAM HUBBARD YALE PLACE.

as Baldwin avenue, a little west of Bee street, and not very far from the north-east district school house. It disappeared many years ago and its site is now occupied by a modern dwelling. The Way family continued to own this farm many years.

West of the John Way and Daniel Baldwin farms was another great tract of land that was purchased by Dr. Alexander Wolcott in the year 1735; part of Aaron Lyman and part of the Jones heirs. Dr. Wolcott was of Windsor and was afterwards of New Haven where he was a prominent physician. He apparently lived in Meriden a short time and he built a house that was still standing until a few years ago.

A curious deed appears on the Wallingford records under date of March 3, 1739-40, reading as follows: "I Alexander Wolcott[1] in consideration of £300 paid to me by Lydia Wolcott, lately my wife, and likewise in consideration of said Lydia Wolcots obtaining a divorce from me at my request and desire," etc., etc. The deed grants to the said Lydia this Meriden property. It certainly was a peculiar transaction and is like nothing else that the writer has seen on the Wallingford records.

This Lydia must have afterwards married John Elliott, of New Haven, for on December 30, 1747, she and her husband deeded to Nathaniel Penfield this farm of 160 acres that had been granted to her by her former husband. For two or three years previous to the deed to Lydia Wolcott the farm was leased to David Rich, but when Penfield obtained it he moved here from Guilford and for many years he and his sons continued to live on the farm. Late in the eighteenth century it became the property of Nathaniel Yale and he and his son Jonathan and grandson, William Hubbard Yale, were the subsequent occupants of the house. The photograph taken a few years ago shows the rear of the dwelling with its owner, William Hubbard Yale, standing at the well. It stood on Gravel street on the east side, a few hundred feet south of Baldwin avenue. It met the fate of so many of these old landmarks, for it was burned to the ground, perhaps three years ago.

Little Success hill has already been described as lying just east of Meeting House hill: north of it was what was called for many years a "town farm,"[2] sequestered by Wallingford about 1703 for some purpose unknown. It extended as far north as Liberty and just east of it was the farm of Nathaniel Roys.

He was the "trusty friend" of the Cole family who, with the "beloved brethren," had disposed of much of their large farm; and, indeed, he was the "trusty friend" of others for he was several times appointed executor or administrator of different estates at a time when there were very few to care for; he was evidently quite a man of affairs. He was five times married, his fourth wife being the widow Abigail Hoyt, in whose life had occurred a gruesome tragedy—a not uncommon event in those days of savage Indians and frontier life.

She had previously been the wife of Deacon David Hoyt, of Deerfield, Mass. Two hours before daybreak on February 29, 1703-4, a party of French and In-

1 Dexter's "Yale Biographies" says, "his wife was compelled to get a divorce from him on account of his irregular habits." He was considerable of a poet, and a contemporary said of him "Very tall, erect as a plane tree, with hair hanging down his shoulders, of silvery whiteness, and with an eye and eyebrow and complexion of a dark hue; his appearance very noble."

2 This town farm must not be confounded with the one north of the river in South Meriden. The description of this one in East Meriden was as follows, taken from the town records, "1703 town farm 80 acres lies above Leatel Success Hill 4 score and 12 rods north and south and 8 score rods east and west bounded on Mr. Jones' farm on ye west (the south portion) on ye town line (Liberty street) on ye north, on Benjamin Roy's farm on ye east and south also and south on Common land; allowance for highway through ye land upward."

dians under the command of M. de Rouville, swooped down on the sleeping town and butchered many and captured a number of others. David Hoyt, his wife Abigail, and four of their children were among the prisoners, and, suffering such tortures as may be imagined on a winter trip under such conditions, they were started on the way to Canada; one child was killed on the road and David died of starvation at Cowass in N. H., near the mouth of Wells river. She was finally brought back from Canada and married Nathaniel Roys in 1708.[1]

In the year 1687 he was granted his farm of 207 acres by the town. It was thus described in the records: "lying near upper end Misery Swamp, beginning on y^e^ east side of y^e^ river[2] near Middletown mountains to north of his hog sty, then west 119½ rods, then south 160 rods, then east towards y^e^ mountains 94 rods, then north 160 rods." As the only landmarks in the boundary are the hog sty and the river, its location might be termed a trifle indefinite. But as a subsequent deed shows that it joined the town farm on its western side, it is safe to say that it was located between Paddock avenue and Gravel street on the west and Misery Bar road and Bee street on the east. It was probably bounded by the "Wallingford north bounds" on the north.

It was between this Nathaniel and Captain Thomas Yale that the quarrel arose in 1696 regarding a watering place which involved so many of the Wallingford planters.[3] The watering place was, doubtless, where Misery Bar road crosses the south branch of Pilgrims' Harbor Brook. His house, perhaps, also stood on this road, for at that date there was no other highway in the locality. In 1701 Ensign Nathaniel gave to his son, Benjamin, a farm of seventy-two acres, a part of this same tract. There is no record of where his house stood and it must have disappeared many long years ago.

East of the farm of Nathaniel Roys was one belonging to Ebenezer Prindle. The house was situated near the north end of Misery Bar road, a little south of its junction with Pomeroy avenue, but has long since disappeared. Mr. Prindle came here from Milford about 1722 and evidently in some way was connected with the William Jones family, for he obtained his first land in Meriden as a Jones heir. He was the owner of another large tract of land extending quite a distance north of old Liberty street and east of the Daniel Baldwin farm in the so-called Country land. His two daughters married Abraham and John, sons of Daniel Hall.

Mention has already been made in a former chapter of the farm of Daniel Hall.[4] Murdock avenue runs through the heart of it and it contained a very large tract

1 See Sheldon's History of Deerfield, Vol. I, pp. 283-284.

2 These Englishmen were used to small rivers at home, hence they commonly called Harbor Brook a river until a considerably later date.

3 See page 63.

4 This Hall family were descendants of the same stock as Rev. Theophilus Hall; a very prominent race in the annals of Wallingford and Meriden.

of land. The house owned by Daniel Hall was undoubtedly the first one erected in the east part of Meriden—perhaps as early as 1685. It stood immediately south of the present dwelling of John P. Hall,[1] a descendant, but became uninhabitable and was pulled down many years ago.

The line of the Halls, owners of this farm is Thomas, Daniel, John, Joseph, Julius and John P. and his sisters. The farm is still a large one and undoubtedly represents the longest continued ownership in the same family of any land in Meriden.

South of this Hall farm, perhaps three-quarters of a mile, on the east side of Murdock avenue, and just north of the dwelling of George B. Murdock, stood the house of Benjamin Whiting.[2] He came to Meriden in 1725 from South-



HOUSE OF DANIEL HALL.

ampton, L. I., and bought some sixty acres which he subsequently added to until he owned a large farm which extended on both sides of the highway. For many years he served as a deacon of the church and died in the year 1773 at the age of seventy-eight. Of his three sons only Samuel remained in Meriden and he died more than a hundred years ago. He left no sons, so the name became extinct in Meriden, but his two daughters, Lucy and Sarah, married two brothers, Joel and Levi Foster, respectively, and it was thus that some of the farm is now owned by George A. Foster,[3] a descendant. The old house built by Benjamin Whiting disappeared many years ago.

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1 The writer here acknowledges his indebtedness to John P. Hall for much valuable information relating to the ancient farms in East Meriden.

2 Deacon Whiting was a son of the Rev. Joseph (Harvard Col. 1661), minister at Southampton, L. I. See Pres. Ezra Stiles' diary, Vol. I., p. 289.

3 Foster Bros.' pond is on this old Whiting farm.

South of the Whiting farm was the large one belonging to the Ives family. The old house stood, in fact stands, in the dwelling of George B. Murdock. Buried in the depths of this modern house is the kernel or nucleus of the one built by John Ives at an early date.[1] In the year 1723 he appears to have taken up his residence in the parish of Meriden. He died in 1738 and the house and east part of his farm passed into the possession of his son, Captain Bezaleel. He died in 1798, and his only child, Captain Samuel, then became the owner and at his death in 1803 it became the property of Ivah Curtis, who had married his daughter, Hannah. Here was born Rev. Samuel Ives Curtis, whose son, Rev. Samuel Ives Curtis, Jr., lately deceased, was probably as great a Hebrew scholar as this country has ever produced, and professor in Chicago Theological Seminary. About the middle of the last century the farm was bought by Zina K. Murdock, and he made the changes and additions to the old homestead. The farm of John Ives was a large one, comprising several hundred acres and stretched down on both sides of the highway nearly to the town line or farm of Amos Camp. His son, John, in the division of his father's estate, took the western part and probably built the house many will remember as the Othniel Ives place, a few hundred feet west of the dwelling of Mr. Murdock. It was erected very likely about the year 1745. It was bought many years ago by J. George Schwink and perhaps ten years ago was burned to the ground. In it was born Levi Ives, who was the father of Levi Silliman Ives, who became the Protestant Episcopal bishop of North Carolina. In the year 1852 he produced a great sensation by leaving the church and embracing the Roman Catholic faith. The Ives family has always been numerous and influential in Meriden and the old records abound in frequent evidences of this fact. Almost due south from the house of George B. Murdock stands the home of John Francis, just inside the Wallingford line; it occupies the site of the house of Cato Freeman, probably a brother of Chatham Freeman; both were freed negro slaves; from the road just west of the house there was formerly a laneway leading to the house of Amos Camp, perhaps three hundred feet to the north. Consequently it was just within the Meriden line and was one of the landmarks used in describing the first boundary of the parish of Meriden. He came here at an early date from Durham and bought at different times land from Samuel Hall, William Cole and John Gaylord, which was variously described as near Burnt Swamp, Clapboard Hill, etc. Most of this land is now in Wallingford, but the house stood within the Meriden line and, consequently, he belonged to the parish. His family moved away fully a hundred years ago, and they were very distantly related to the Deacon Elah Camp family that moved to Meriden in the middle of the last century.

Paddock avenue north of where Misery Bar road leads to the northeast is called a comparatively modern road, nevertheless, there was a road running north

1 Some doubt has been expressed as to this statement; at any rate the sites are the same.

perhaps a little further west, at an early date, on which a Gideon Ives was living in the middle of the eighteenth century. His farm was bounded south on the Berry farm (to be described) and land of Dr. Isaac Hall, and east on the highway and not on Misery Bar road. He was a son of John and brother of Bezaleel Ives. Some of the farm was given him by his father and some he purchased of Benjamin, the son of Nathaniel Roys. East of this farm, on the other side of the road, just north of the Paddock homestead, once stood the house of Michael Mitchell, one of the early settlers of Meriden.

Miller avenue, which runs west from Misery road (now called Paddock avenue) and begins its course between the home of William B. Rice and the south-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey. SILAS RICE PLACE.

east district school house, is an ancient highway and was laid out in 1723, and runs to Yale avenue. The Rice house occupies the site of the dwelling of Captain Divan Berry, of Revolutionary fame. His father's (Divan, Sr.) home was quite a distance further west on the same road but disappeared long ago; there are people still living who remember the site by the depression marking the cellar. Divan, Jr., bought the house at the corner of David Ives and six acres also, bounded north and west on his own land. Divan died in 1785 and the house and six acres soon became the property of Levi Ives and it was doubtless here that Bishop Levi

Silliman Ives was born. The house was bult before 1740 by Dr. Ebenezer Cooper, Meriden's first "phititian." About 1796 this dwelling was destroyed by fire and Levi Ives immediately began the erection of another, but before it was completed he sold the half finished house to Deacon Silas Rice on October 3, 1796.

So that really it is a Rice place and is now occupied by a descendant, William B. Rice. Levi Ives, after selling his home, removed to Turin, N. Y., called at that time in the Black River Country, where so many other Meriden families moved at about the same date. The Berry farm was a large one and extended west on



Photo by F. S. Godfrey.

EPHRAIM BERRY, OR AARON HIGBEY PLACE.

Miller avenue over Little Success hill to Swayne avenue and quite a distance to the north.[1]

There was another Berry farm not far away, and on it stands a Berry house, a fine substantial dwelling, probably the best type of a colonial house in Meriden. In the year 1743 Thomas Yale sold to Ephraim Berry of "Chilsy" (Chelsea) Mass., fifty-four acres of land bounded south on the ten rod highway,

1 The writer mentioned to Chas. Z. Murdock that his house stands on the old Berry farm and he replied, that when he was a child his aunt had called the fields the Berry lots; he supposed the term indicated that berries once grew there—a natural inference.

now Ann street and Meeting House Hill road, north on Benjamin Curtis and east on highway (Swayne avenue). With it he sold a barn. Shortly afterwards Berry mortgaged the land and on it then, were a house and a barn, showing that the house had been built in the intervening time. The late Mrs. Julia Knight, who owned it, told the writer that a few years ago the barn was taken down and on a beam was found the date 1735, and that her father, Aaron Higbey, had told her the house was standing when the old meeting house was in use. This fixes the date very close to 1743 and the pedigree of the dwelling is practically certain. Ephraim was, doubtless, a brother of Divan Berry, Sr. He finally moved from Meriden on November 22, 1756, and sold the house and farm to Stephen Perkins.

The Perkins family occupied it many years, the last one being Liberty, who passed a good part of his life developing a character commonly denominated as crusty; he married late in life as his second wife the widow of one of the sons of Squire Darius Benham of Colony street, who with her son, Henry W. Benham, came to live in the old house. The boy, who had high ideals, did not get on well with Liberty and many stories are told of the hardships endured. The story in detail can be found in Mrs. Breckenridge's "Recollections of a New England Town," page 49.

The lad afterwards became a general in the army and had a very successful career. In the first half of the last century the dwelling became the property of Aaron Higbey. The house has been kept in perfect repair and no one of the very old homes in Meriden is as well preserved as this. There is much fine paneling and everything about the house indicates how carefully it was built and kept in repair. It stands on the east corner of Parker avenue and Ann street.

The name of Captain Thomas Yale has been frequently mentioned in the foregoing pages. He was born in New Haven in 1647, the son of Captain Thomas, Sr. He was a grandson of Ann, the daughter of Bishop Lloyd, of the diocese of Chester, England. Her first husband was Thomas Yale, of Wrexham, Wales. He died about 1719 and she then married Theophilus Eaton, a merchant in London, who afterwards moved to New Haven and became governor of the colony. Captain Thomas, Jr., was first cousin to Elihu Yale, after whom Yale College was named on account of his benefactions to the institution, and who, although born in New Haven, was afterwards a member of the famous and rich corporation known as the East India Company of London and later became its governor.

Captains Thomas,[1] Sr. and Jr., although so well connected, seem to have preferred the life of a pioneer on the frontiers, to that of a man of affairs in the center of New Haven colony, for the senior early moved to a large farm in North Haven while the junior was one of the original planters of Wallingford in 1670 and at

1 No reliance can be placed on the early pedigree of the Yale family, found in the pages of the genealogy compiled by Elihu Yale and published in 1850. See N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, Vol. XXXVIII., p. 317, Vol. L, p. 72 and Vol. LIII., pp. 82-83. The statement made on page 11 of this book that Thos. Yale's mother was a daughter of Thos. Morton, Bishop of Chester, was a mistake.

various times held almost every office his fellow townsmen could bestow on him; he certainly was a very important man in the community. At an early date the town granted to Thomas Yale a large farm which cannot be precisely stated because the "ledger book" containing most of the original surveys of Wallingford is not to be found among the archives of that town. There is a description of an addition in 1702, and judging by inference when portions of the farm were sold at a later date, he originally had a tract bounded on the east by Swayne and Yale avenues; on the west by an ancient highway a few hundred feet west of the southern part of Curtis street (this was really the first layout of the southern part of Curtis street; it is now closed) and by Curtis street; on the south by the town line, and on the north by Ann street and Meeting House Hill highway (which were one and



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

NOAH YALE, OR J. HOBART YALE PLACE.

the same road originally). Another section ran north of this old highway. Captain Thomas had his home lot in Wallingford village so he used the large farm in Meriden for agricultural purposes only. In 1703 he distributed a great part of it to his sons, Thomas and Nathaniel, who were shortly afterwards married. For a while they both lived with their families in a house that must have stood very close to the junction of Yale and Miller avenues, for it was just half a mile, or 160 rods south of Meeting House Hill road, as described in a deed when the two brothers divided the farm in 1706. Nathaniel died a young man in 1711, leaving three sons, Asa, Moses and Abel, and it was of these three sons that the

committee[1] appointed by the church in 1728, bought the western portion of this farm, which they later (1729) disposed of to Rev. Theophilus Hall and which became his homestead farm. In the deed it is described as bounded north and west on highways (Curtis and Ann streets) and east on Thomas Yale. Julius and J. Hobart Yale and Levi Yale are descendants of Thomas Yale and much of his old farm is in their possession. The house erected as early as 1706 disappeared many years ago and was probably the one occupied later by David Levitt, who bought quite a farm of the Yales at an early date. There are two Yale houses still standing in Meriden, one on Yale avenue and occupied by J. Hobart Yale that was erected by his ancestor Noah, the son of Thomas, in the year 1761.

The house was certainly a fine one for those days and contains much good paneling and wainscoting, and is yet a comfortable and dignified dwelling and for years has been a landmark in that part of the town. Mr. Yale has removed the great chimney and thereby obtained much additional room and has established a water supply in the attic and a steam heater in the cellar, so that it is now as well equipped for comfort and convenience as though it were within the city limits. The house in all its lines shows that it was built by a man who was in good financial condition and desired to make it an exponent of his comfortable position. Another ancient Yale dwelling is on East Main street, that was built by Abel Yale about the year 1735. It is on the north side of the street perhaps 500 feet west of Paddock avenue. The first mention of it on the records was in 1737 when his brother Moses quit claimed to Abel all his interest in the house and farm. It stands on a part of the "town farm," which the brothers had bought in 1728 after disposing of their father's lands to the church committee. It was evidently a comfortable and substantial dwelling and it is still in such shape that it may last many years. Of course, it is considerably changed from its original condition, particularly in the interior.

The old lean-to roof is one of the signs of its antiquity. The last of the Yales to own it was Jonathan[2] who died in 1833. Orchard Guy, his brother-in-law, who owned and built the old house, three hundred feet west, about 1793, bought the Yale homestead after Jonathan's death, and in 1844 sold it to S. C. Paddock. It is now occupied by a German family who keep a grocery store in the west room of the ground floor.

Mention has been made of the Orchard Guy home. It is of much later date —probably about 1795. In this house was born the late Joel H. Guy, and also his brother and sister, George W. and Esther. She became Mrs. Melvin C. Lee and mother of Mrs. George S. Seeley.

1 Committee was Bartholomew Foster, Samuel Roys and Samuel Ives.

2 Elihu Yale in his genealogy says that Jonathan died a bachelor in 1833. But Daniel Hall in his will dated June 19, 1804, and proved Nov. 1, 1805, says Jonathan was his son-in-law and husband of his daughter, Esther. Most people will be inclined to believe that Daniel Hall had the most reliable information on the subject.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ABEL YALE PLACE.



ORCHARD GUY PLACE.

Between Yale avenue and Misery highway or Paddock avenue and bounded on the north by Miller avenue was a large Curtis farm which had been granted to Sergeant Nathaniel Curtis, whose homestead was near Falls Plain or Hanover.

He was the son of Ensign Thomas Curtis, who was born in Stratford in 1648, a son of the original John, and came to Wallingford, one of the company of first planters in 1670, probably through the influence of Captain Nathaniel Merriman, whose daughter Mary he married. Ensign Thomas was active and influential and during his sixty-six years of life in Wallingford held at various times almost every office on the list. He died the last of the original planters in May, 1736. This Curtis farm originally extended all the way from Paddock avenue to Yale avenue and was bounded north on Miller avenue and extended south towards Clapboard Hill. Nathaniel divided it between two of his sons, Moses and Enos, but as Moses died young, it finally became wholly the property of Enos, who resided on the farm until 1767, when he sold part of it, and his home to his nephew Abel[1] and removed to Stockbridge, Mass., where he settled near the "Bowl" and his farm there is now part of the Anson Phelps Stokes estate, known as Shadowbrook. The Meriden home stood on the summit of the hill on the south side of Miller avenue. It disappeared sometime early in the last century. It was a cold, bleak place for a dwelling, and the magnificent view of the Hanging Hills and Lamentation range in the north and east, with glimpses of East Rock and Mount Carmel in the south can hardly have repaid Enos and Abel for the terrible winter blasts that must have whistled down from the summits of Meeting House and Little Success Hills.[2]

Another Curtis farm fronted on Curtis street and extended easterly until it climbed the steep sides of Meeting House Hill and ran quite down to Swayne avenue. It had a frontage of only a few hundred feet on Curtis street but spread out fan-like in its easterly course until it comprised nearly 200 acres. It was deeded by Nathaniel to his son, Benjamin, in 1729. This Benjamin was the ancestor of most of the Curtis family of Meriden. His house stood on a site between the dwellings of the late Lemuel J. and Edwin E. Curtis, Nos. 128 and 112 Curtis street. It disappeared about the year 1830, some of the timbers being used in constructing a barn that stood in the rear. Benjamin died a comparatively young man in 1754, aged fifty-one, and his body lies in the old Meeting House Hill cemetery, while that of his wife, who died in 1776, lies in the Broad street graveyard. His son, Benjamin,[3] who was born in 1735 and died in 1822, was not a believer in the race suicide theory evidently, for he had a family of fourteen children. As his house was not a large one, he, unlike the "old woman who

1 Great grandfather of Floyd Curtis.

2 Just west of the Southeast district school house and the barn of Wm. B. Rice is a swamp that was at one time much larger than it is to-day and extended north and south for quite a distance. It was called Invincible swamp and is frequently mentioned in the old records.

3 Grandfather of the late Edwin E., Lemuel J., George R., Alfred P., Homer Curtis and others.

lived in a shoe," knew what to do; for he built a house, probably about 1795, into which he put those members of his family for whom there was no room in the old homestead.

This old house is a substantially built one and is located at No. 54 Curtis street. It is in good shape to-day and ought to last many, many years. That it was positively built in 1795 is not sure. All we know is that in that year he deeded a part of it to his son, Benjamin, and called it his new house: this may have been only a relative term to distinguish it from his old one. It was his brother, Abel, who bought of his uncle, Enos Curtis, the farm on Little Success Hill.

The farm bought by Rev. Theophilus Hall in 1729 has already been mentioned. He paid the church committee £250 and as they had given the Yale brothers the year previous £300 for the same farm, the difference, perhaps, represents a contribution given the minister at his settlement.

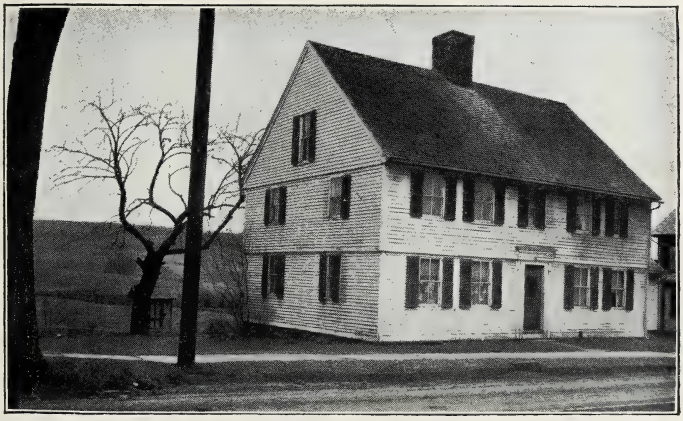


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

BENJAMIN CURTIS HOUSE.

This home farm comprised eighty acres, afterwards added to, so that it contained all told ninety acres. The north line was Ann street which at that time was a ten-rod highway or 165 feet wide; the east line was on the west slope of Meeting House Hill, east of the brook, and it extended south probably some ways below Booth's pond; on the west it was bounded by Curtis street or the "highway that goeth up Pole hill." His house stood where the Willard Hall dwelling now stands, No. 212 Curtis street, but he did not build it until 1734 in all probability, for he did not come to Meriden to reside until that date (the year he was married), although officiating in the church after 1728. The highway that now runs south from Ann street through the farm beginning a little east of Parker avenue was not laid out until 1820. Back of his dwelling he later

built a "cyder" mill, a chair[1] house, a horse house and a barn. In addition to the home farm he bought later the Levitt farm of sixty-six acres south of it, so that his land must have extended well towards Miller avenue. Then he owned the Harris farm which has already been described as around the old Central tavern, or farm house as it was then. This consisted of seventy-one acres, as he made a purchase of additional land after buying out Harris. He also owned forty acres in what was called the Notch Meadow, on the road to Westfield, and a large farm in Killingworth, and also 151 acres in Southington. Consequently he was a gentleman of large landed estate, in fact, wealthy. He owned five slaves, viz: Jack, Phillis, Prince, Primus and Dinah, at the time of his death in 1767, and possessed a total estate of about £4,000, or $20,000. He was a very rich man for his generation and in all his actions gave evidence of being a shrewd man of business. In fact, one is constantly impressed by his strength of character. He was certainly the strong man of his parish and seems to have completely governed his flock in every way. His contemporaries speak of him as a strong preacher and a forceful man, although small of stature and slight of physique. The more one studies the early annals of Meriden the more one admires Parson Hall.

He was born in Wallingford village on April 1, 1707, the son of Samuel and Love[2] (Royce) Hall. He was of distinguished stock and many of his relatives became very prominent. His uncle, Hon. John Hall, was for eight years one of the governor's assistants and ancestor of Hon. Lyman Hall, governor of Georgia, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and he was a cousin to Rev. Samuel Hall, pastor of the church in Cheshire.

Rev. Theophilus graduated at Yale in the class of 1727, and after a course in theology he came to preach in Meriden in 1728 and was ordained pastor on the 29th of October, 1729. The Rev. Dr. James Dana, of the church in Wallingford, who was a contemporary of the Rev. Theophilus for eight or nine years, in his Century Discourse,[3] 1770, says: "Mr. Hall was a gentleman of strong intellectual powers, much esteemed as a preacher, of great firmness and stability, and a zealous advocate for civil and religious liberty." Rev. Edward Hungerford, in his Centennial Sermon,[4] delivered in the Center Congregational church October 1, 1876, says: "Theophilus Hall was a man of powerful intellect, and of large heart. As I have searched among old papers, it has been an inspiration to come into contact with the earnestness, and the vigor of this man who began to preach a hundred and fifty years ago." "This man's words flashed; his short, quick, clear cut sentences went to the mark. His familiar style with its 'don't' and 'won't,'

1 A chaise or two-wheeled gig.
2 A daughter of Nathaniel Royce who was the trusty friend of the Cole family.
3 Page 41.
4 Page 15.

makes it easy to listen, while his sentiments belong more to a future age than to the one in which he speaks." "I do not hesitate to say that if he stood in one of our pulpits to-day, he would stand there as a thoroughly popular preacher whom men would love to hear."

The Rev. Theophilus Hall published three sermons: 1st, The Righteous perishing, and no man laying it to Heart, Illustrated. Two Occasional Sermons [from Isa. lvii:1], delivered at North Haven, June 1, 1760, soon after the Death of the Rev. Isaac Stiles.

2. The most important Question Considered and Answered: or A Saving Faith, Scripturally explained, in Two Sermons [from Acts xvi:30, 31], preached at Meriden, August 10, 1760.

3. The Ministerial Work great and important, arduous and difficult; yet pleasant, noble and honorable. A Sermon [from 1 Cor. i:17], Preached at the Ordination of the Rev. Mr. Matthew Merriam, to the Pastoral Office in Berwick, 25th Sept. 1765.

Matthew Merriam was the son of Captain Nathaniel and Mr. Hall fitted the young man for college and then made a journey of over 200 miles to the province of Maine to preach at his ordination.[1]

Mr. Hall married May 21, 1734, Hannah Avery and he died of pleurisy in Meriden on March 25, 1767, at the age of sixty, survived by his widow and seven children and universally lamented.

It is a pity that there is no portrait of Mr. Hall in existence, and that there are so few facts in his life that have come down to us. He left to his beloved church a sum of money with which to buy a "fashionable" communion cup, which the writer is under the impression is still in existence. His body lies in the cemetery on Meeting House Hill and the slab that covers the grave is in better condition than almost any other stone in the yard.

There are a few of his descendants still living in Meriden.

1 See Dexter's Yale Biographies and Annals, Vol. I., p. 353.



Facsimile from a receipt in possession of Wm. B. Rice.

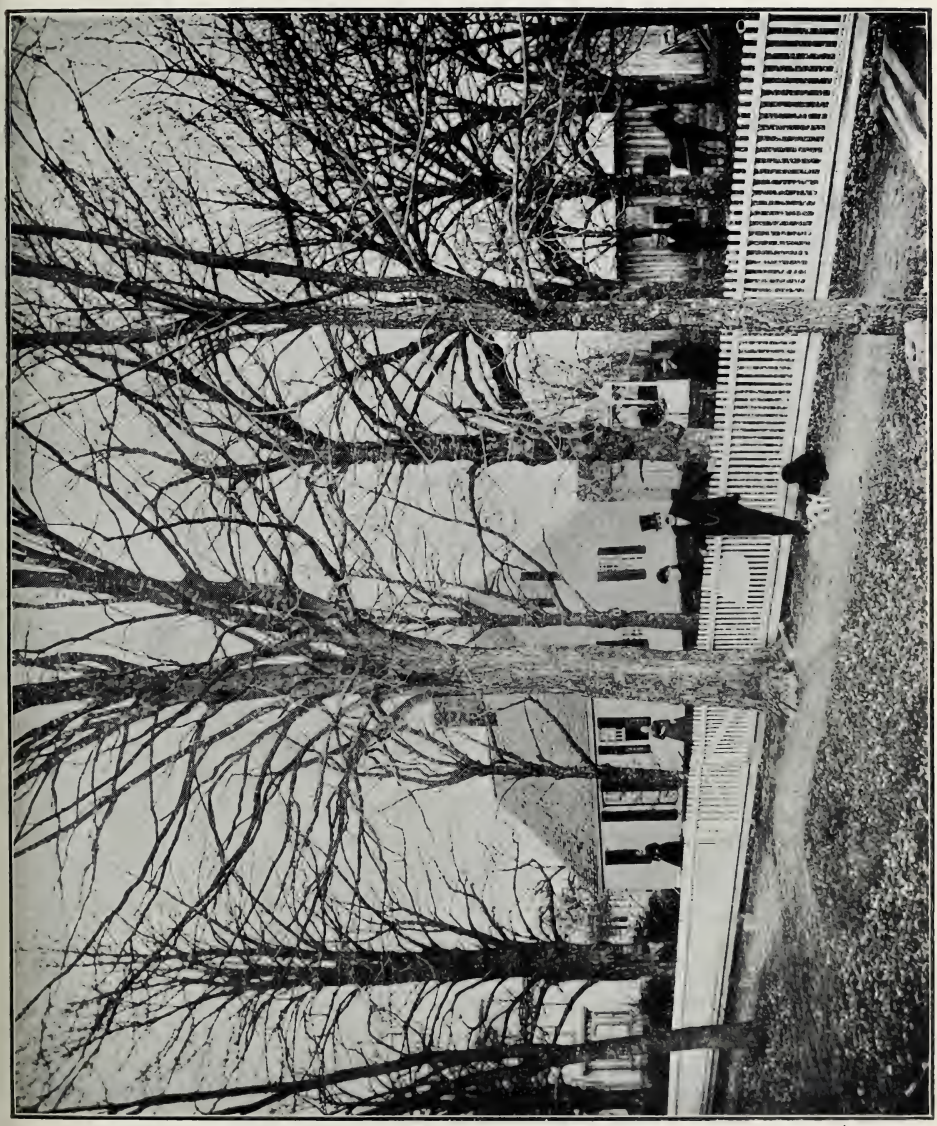
CHAPTER X.

Had Parson Hall occasion to go to Pilgrims' Harbor on a day in 1740 to call on his friend, John Merriam, he would have left his house on Curtis street and turned to the north up the road and perhaps stopped a few moments to chat with his parishioner, Daniel Bradley, busy at the anvil in his blacksmith shop beside the house. We can fancy Daniel hastening to the door, cap in hand, to pay his respects to the dominie and inquiring if the last job of horseshoeing had been satisfactory. Daniel had only just come to Meriden, having bought the house that was built by Lazarus Ives, son of John, who lived on Misery road. Lazarus had built the place about 1730, and lived in it quite ten years. Daniel Bradley stayed here only a few years and then sold the place to Daniel Hough, who lived in it many years; he was the father of Dr. Insign Hough and of Mindwell, who married Benjamin Curtis, and became the mother of the fourteen children. It was owned by Isaac Lewis for a while and in it the late Isaac C. Lewis, his son, was born. A great many years ago it was bought by Samuel Curtis and in it his son, the late Captain Alfred P. Curtis lived and here were born Mrs. George A. Fay, his daughter, and Alfred W. Curtis, his son, who still lives in the old house, but has altered it so much that if Daniel Bradley were to come back to look for his former home and blacksmith shop he would never dream that the dwelling, No. 160 Curtis street, was the place he was seeking.

The photograph was taken in 1868; against the fence leans George A. Fay. Mrs. Fay is just behind it and Captain Alfred is in the background at the right, and his son, Alfred W., in front, while at the extreme left stands Frank S. Fay.

Following the steps of Rev. Mr. Hall we would go up the street, past the house of Benjamin Curtis, until we reached a spot a little south of his new dwelling; here the parson would turn to the left to follow the street leading to Pilgrims' Harbor. At this corner, on the south side, was a house that disappeared probably nearly a hundred years ago. In it lived Captain John Webb. For many years Captain Webb was a well known figure and influential man in Meriden, and possessed of considerable wealth. He came here from Wethersfield in 1729 and built his house which stood perhaps a hundred feet east of the present home of Mrs. Juliette Y. Curtis, No. 309 Broad street.

Captain Webb and his wife lived until 1799. When he died he left no children and willed the greater part of his estate to his kinsman, Benjamin Hart, whose aunt he had married. He doubtless tore down the old house and erected the present home of Mrs. Curtis on the then new turnpike.



DANIEL HOUGH, OR ALFRED P. CURTIS HOMESTEAD.

Captain Webb's kindness of heart was so great that he left his two negro slaves, Joe and Daphy Prinn, a handsome competence, and gave them their freedom. They afterwards lived on Paddock avenue, near the home of another ex-slave, Chatham Freeman (who had earned his freedom by serving in the Revolution in place of his master, Noah Yale). His house stood on Paddock avenue, near the private driveway leading to the home of Charles Z. Murdock. The commissions of John Webb as lieutenant and captain hang in the Curtis Memorial library. The farm was a large one and extended westerly quite to the property of the Curtis Home, and was bounded on the north partly by the highway to be described and the farm of Rev. Theophilus Hall. This highway passed to the west from Curtis street, following the general line of New street until it reached present Elm street when it turned diagonally to the northwest until it met Olive street, and then westerly in the same direction now followed by that street to Country road or Colony street. At its junction on the south side was the home of Stephen Atwater already mentioned. Olive street, east of the junction with this old street was not in existence until many years later. This highway now described must have been the course of the parson to the house of his friend, John Merriam, standing in what is now the junction of Main and Colony streets.

If the parson had wished to visit his friend, Deacon Samuel Royce, he would have passed south down Curtis street until he came to the road that runs west and comes out on Colony street just south of the South Farms school house near Archer's corner. This road passes just south of Sacred Heart cemetery and is the only means of approach. The land in that vicinity for many acres around once belonged to the Cowles family. In houses that have long since disappeared north and south of the road lived Deacon Ebenezer Cowles and his sons, Joseph, Jr. and Ebenezer, Jr. In the house on the south side was born Elisha, the father of Major Elisha A. Cowles, the most prominent figure in Meriden in the first half of the last century. This Cowles family was not related to the Cole family that owned the large farm in the north part of Meriden, so far as we know, although the names were the same originally. The first of the Cowles family to live in Meriden was Joseph, who came here from Farmington, and married Abigail, the daughter of Samuel Royce on July 13, 1699. His father-in-law gave him a farm just south of Archer's corner in South Farms district and in the year 1701, 107 acres up the hill on the old highway down which we can fancy the good parson descending after stopping, perhaps, to chat with some of this Cowles family, who were always very prominent in church matters. It is difficult to believe that on the summit of this hill, called Ox Hill, there was once a colony of Cowleses and also Rices, for so far as the writer can discover there is not the least remnant of the depression of a cellar to mark the site of a house anywhere in the vicinity: but there is no doubt that here they lived for several generations. The highway

was laid out in 1723, following a path. It runs through from Colony street to Yale avenue, just north of the farmhouse of Levi Yale.

As has already been mentioned the South Farms district was at first called Milking Yard and later Royce's (or Rice's as we may now begin to call it; for at this date the name began to assume the modern form) Farms. But this later name embraced a much larger tract than that known as South Farms.

It began at the town line and extended up Colony or Country road on both sides, until it embraced a large part of what is Walnut Grove cemetery to-day and it stretched over the hill to the west, for some distance, perhaps including the farm of Rev. Samuel Whittlesey, once known as Town Farm, which has already been described as bounded on the west by Town Rock, and on the south by the river; and also the Rice farms to the north. Every member of the Rice family in Meriden except Nathaniel, seems to have located his home farm in this territory, although like all the other planters they owned other tracts in various parts of the town. Robert Royce, the pioneer, came to this country about 1631 and landed in Boston just in time to get into that theological dispute which twisted the budding town into a turmoil of religious controversy and centered around Mrs. Hutchinson and which was such a mixture of metaphysical and religious problems that it is doubtful if any one to-day knows what it was all about. Robert got away safely and went to Stratford and the next we know of him he was in New London, where he was elected a delegate to the General Court in Hartford, and was a respected and influential man. His four sons, Nehemiah, Samuel, Nathaniel and Isaac, came to Wallingford among the first planters, and all of them except Nathaniel took the major part of their land grants at Milking Yard, although, doubtless, having their homes in Wallingford village. These four sons were the fathers of numerous sons, and to many of them were given the paternal and fraternal names, with utter disregard to the trouble that was to be the lot of those of modern days who should attempt to assign to each his proper place in a genealogical tree. But out of the tangle we can, at least, extricate these facts. Samuel had a son, Robert, born in 1674, to whom he gave a large tract of land in 1706, at the southern end of Milking Yard, and adjoining the farm of his son-in-law, Joseph Cowles: it was north and west of it. One gift conveyed 100 acres and there were subsequent gifts and purchases. It was this Robert who made the deposition in 1748 about the Country farms and Cole's Path.[1] His farm extended beyond the river on the west, and was bounded on the east by the Country road. His house stood where the Archer homestead is located. This house cannot have been built as long ago as 1706, although it is a very old one. The earliest notice of the present one was in 1740 when the highway running west from it was opened. This road went directly across the river and did not curve towards the northwest and cross

1 See page 91.

at the point where the bridge is now located. This dwelling is one of the best preserved of the old colonial homes in Meriden.

It has been kept in fine repair and there have been many additions, notwithstanding which, the line of the lean-to can be plainly traced. The interior, perhaps, better preserves the appearance of age than the exterior. Robert, like several other members of the Rice family, was a deacon and a man of substance and influence. At the end of the eighteenth century a part of the farm containing the dwelling was sold to John Nott by one of the Rice heirs and on December 5, 1801, he sold it to Caleb Wilcox. At his death about 1830, Mrs. Maria Carter, an heir of Mr. Wilcox, became the owner and in 1866 she sold it to Mrs. Harriet A. Archer, the wife of Dr. H. A. Archer. It is now owned by their daughter, Mrs. Agnes C. Butler.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

DEACON ROBERT ROYCE, OR DR. H. A. ARCHER PLACE.

North of the Robert Rice farm was one that originally belonged to Isaac Rice but later was bought of his heirs by Dr. William Hough as early as 1730. The greater part of his farm is now included in Walnut Grove cemetery. Dr. Hough was the second physician mentioned on the Wallingford records. He was the uncle of Daniel Hough who lived on Curtis street and great uncle of Dr. Insign Hough, Daniel's son. Dr. William Hough leased a part of his farm "west from his house," to an association of Meriden men for mining copper in 1736. It adjoined the Golden Parlor Mining Co.'s operations on the west, and as every one knows, the remains of the shafts of this latter company can still be seen in the

west part of the cemetery. Dr. Hough lived here until 1740 when he moved to Cheshire and later to Haddam.

That this is the original house it is impossible to assert. But it is certainly a very old dwelling and it occupies the site of the Dr. Hough home. Age has raised havoc with the floor beams and sills in the cellar, and it has been found necessary to reinforce and strengthen them. After the doctor moved away, his son William lived here and had a blacksmith shop adjoining his house, for he was the smith of Rice's farms. About the year 1800 it was bought by Cornelius Hull who lived in it a few years. In the year 1807 Ichabod Wood, who came here from North Haven, acquired the property, and he and his son, Norman, lived here with their families many years. At his death in 1843 Ichabod owned a farm of 112 acres, which was inherited by Norman, and the old house is known to most



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

DR. WILLIAM HOUGH, OR NORMAN B. WOOD PLACE.

Meriden people as the Norman Wood place. The house and farm were bought more than twenty years ago by the Walnut Grove Cemetery association. There is no prettier stretch of meadow in Meriden, rolling as it does in gentle slopes that open here and there with glimpses of further hills and dales, while in the distance the spires of Wallingford lend a quiet and peaceful charm to the landscape that is in harmony with the environment.

We left the Reverend Theophilus coming down Ox Hill and by this time he has doubtless had his little chat with Deacon Robert Rice and is now well up the road towards Doctor Hough's, so we will join him and continue on his course.

topping a moment while he steps to the door of Daniel Holt's to see that all is well within. The site of this house is now occupied by a modern dwelling, a square, flat-roofed structure opposite the north entrance to the cemetery. The road now running east a few hundred feet north of this house is an old one and was laid out in 1723 and we call it Holt's Hill road. It ran also west from Colony road until it joined the road that was laid out in 1744 to mark Wallingford north bounds. Much of the west highway is still in existence, although the entrance to it on Colony street is now almost a cliff owing to the cut that has been made in this latter road. The parson passes on this road to the west,



EZEKIEL, OR OLIVER RICE PLACE.

bordered by fields and meadows belonging now to Daniel Holt and now to Samuel Rice, in an inextricable confusion that only the original owners could disentangle; no house meets his view for a long distance until he descends the hill and crosses Pilgrims' Harbor brook. Here in the meadow, south of the road, was the home of his faithful friend, Deacon Samuel Rice, the son of the original Samuel who came to Wallingford at the birth of the town in 1670. This house disappeared many years ago and it is doubtful if now the remains of the cellar could be discovered. Deacon Samuel and his uncle, Nathaniel, the trusty friend of the Cole family, were frequently deputies to the General Court and were prominent

in every way. In the old house lived Samuel[1] and it was afterwards owned by his son, Ezekiel, who was a soldier in the French and Indian wars and rejoiced in the title of Esquire. His son, Ezekiel, Jr., who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, built the house now standing, on land given him by his father, in 1781.

It is a style different from any other ancient dwelling in Meriden in that it has two chimneys, one at either end, and through the middle runs a hallway. The house is so sheltered by fine old trees and the ground is so graded to meet the style of dwelling that there seems to be a sort of mutual adaptability, the effect of which is heightened by the small picket fence in front. Altogether the house has the appearance of belonging there because it grew there, and about it is a quaintness and quiet charm that is very pleasing and restful. The broad acres of the farm extend in all directions in pastoral beauty, and the effect of the homestead is so striking that it is only necessary to call it the Oliver Rice place to identify it in every one's mind who has lived in Meriden long enough to become familiar with the country round about. In their ancestral home still live Miss Anna C. and William T. Rice with their mother, the widow of the late Oliver Rice, while another daughter, the wife of Dr. E. W. Smith, lives in a house not far away, built by her husband on a part of the home farm.

Among the first planters of Wallingford appears the name of Samuel Andrews, son of William, who signed the Fundamental Agreement of New Haven in 1639, and was one of the twelve appointed to choose among themselves the men who were to be the pillars of the new church, and built the first meeting house there. Altogether this William was an important man in New Haven colony. Samuel, the grandson of Samuel the first of Wallingford, bought several tracts of land in Meriden parish during the decade from 1720 in the western part of the town that aggregated 200 to 300 acres. It may be roughly stated as bounded by the Merriam farm on the north or West Main street, the Stephen Atwater farm on the east, or Cook avenue; it ran south to Harbor brook and perhaps somewhat beyond, certainly including Hemlock grove, and on the west it ran over nearly to Allen avenue.

It is impossible to give thoroughly accurate bounds of any of these old farms, for the planters were constantly buying and selling land, and in proportion to the inhabitants the number of transfers were vastly greater than they are to-day. Land and cattle were about all they had to sell, and the old records fairly groan under the number of entries, and the position of town clerk was no sinecure.

The Andrews family, like most of the others, was numerous and their position in the community was always an eminently respectable one, although their early alliance with the Church of England seems to have prevented their holding many town offices. The house of Samuel Andrews stood in the rear and slightly to

1 He had a family of 16 children.

the east of the old house at No. 412 West Main street. It probably was built as early as 1727 but disappeared many years ago. In it were born all his family. One son, Laban, who lived in Wallingford village, until late in life, was selectman during, or a good part of, the Revolution, while another, Samuel the youngest son, was minister of the Episcopal church there and had a not very pleasant experience during the same war. One of the sons, Moses, built a dwelling,



MOSES ANDREWS PLACE.

probably about the year 1760, that is still in existence and stands on West Main street, at No. 424, a large, comfortable old colonial house that is still in good repair. When St. Andrew's Society was formed in 1789, the organization took place in this house and here for several years the Sunday services were held, Moses Andrews frequently acting as lay reader.

For many years this family was the mainstay of the Episcopal church in Meriden.

The highway leading from the Oliver Rice farm, which originally came up to West Main street about in the line of Capitol avenue, was opened in the year 1780. This is the highway that runs on the west side of the William Bradley place now used by the Meriden Golf Club for their links. If we return by this highway to the road running by the Oliver Rice place we can follow it on its old course eastward and when we come to Colony road we still keep on in the same direction up Holt's Hill. To the south was the farm of Daniel Holt, as already noted; on the north was that of Arthur Rexford, who came here about the year 1737 to run the Golden Parlor mine on the Dr. Hough farm. Rex-



ABEL ROYCE, OR WILLIAM W. PLUMB PLACE.

ford's[1] farm ran from Colony road well up the hill; bounded south by Holt's Hill road; it extended north nearly as far as the Curtis Home property and although the Rexfords did not stay here many years it was known by their name for a long time. During the time of the Revolution it was the property of a man named Jauncy, who joined the enemy, and consequently the farm was confiscated by the colonial or state government and sold as a Tory farm. Jauncy never lived here. His home was in New York and he was a rich man. When we reach the top of the hill we come to the Plumb farm. This house, standing on the south of the road

1 He bought his farm of Daniel Holt and Abel Royce.

near the junction of Gale avenue, was once probably the home of Abel Rice. At least, his house was on this site and the present one is apparently a very old dwelling.

Abel Rice was the son of Samuel and was born in 1700 and this land came into his possession in 1722, a gift from his father. He appears to have been living on this farm as early as 1733. The house is certainly a very ancient one; although it has lost some of its original features, it still preserves sufficient to show that it was built in the days when the great massive beams in the ceilings of kitchen and parlor showed their strength by boldly crossing from the great chimney to the outside walls without being concealed. The great chimney has disappeared and there have been several additions built.



JAMES HOUGH, OR JAMES BALDWIN HOMESTEAD.

The house continued in the Rice family until the last years of the eighteenth century when Solomon died and his widow married Israel Hall. It was then known by this latter name. Finally William Yale bought it and at his death in 1833 it was left to his daughter Mary, the wife of Francis A. Gale, and has continued in that family since. It is now the home of her daughter, the widow[1] of William W. Plumb. The photograph was taken about thirteen years ago, before some of the present additions had been built.

1 Deceased since this was written.

There were two other ancient farms of which no mention has been made. The first was the Hough farm in the northeast part of the town. It was located on what is known as the Westfield road, and included a large tract of land. Samuel Hough, the immediate progenitor of the Meriden family, owned a tract of land that is at present known as the Joseph Hough farm; it is south of the old Yale farm, just over in the Wallingford line, and it includes the Spruce Glen or Gutter district, where Samuel apparently owned and worked a sawmill at an early date. He was the father of Dr. William Hough, whose home has been described, and also of James Hough, who in the year 1730 bought of the Way family two acres of land in the bend of the Harbor; sufficient as the deed says for a sawmill to stand on. In the early days that part of Harbor brook was always called the "bend." The pond was then constructed and the mill site we now know as Baldwin's; but it continued to be known as Hough's until 1796 when James Baldwin bought an interest. He was the ancestor of several of the Baldwin families in Meriden, notably Moses (whose son, Nathan S.,[1] still has his home in the northeast district) and Ransom, who was the father of Mrs. Russell Hall and Mrs. Benjamin Kennard, of this city. The old James Hough homestead was built probably as early as 1740.

As may readily be perceived, it is a very ancient building, and when the photograph was taken it still preserved its stone chimney. It was acquired by James Baldwin after he bought the mill property and it is now the home of Gardner W. Reynolds. It stands on the north side of the road, several hundred feet east of the mill. East of it stood until a few years ago an old house known as the Phineas Hough dwelling, built by a son of James. North and east of the Hough property was the large farm of James Scovill. He came to Meriden as early as 1721 from Middletown, and for several generations the Scovill family was prominent and well known in Meriden, but the name has become extinct in this vicinity. The late Henry S. Wilcox and his son, Albert H.,[2] are descendants of this family. The Scovill houses have all disappeared, one or two of them by fire.

The highway leading to these Hough and Scovill farms, known now as Britannia street and Westfield road, was laid out in 1739. Wall street, which was also laid out in the same year, led from Liberty street to Hough's or Baldwin's Mill; both roads when laid out or adopted by the selectmen followed ancient paths.

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1 Mr. and Mrs. Nathan S. Baldwin have given the writer much information pertaining to the old farms and early inhabitants of Meriden.

2 The writer is indebted to Albert H. Wilcox, clerk of the First Congregational Society, for much assistance in getting information from the old church records.

CHAPTER XI.

Having now mapped out the various farms and located their owners in the parish of Meriden those who have had the patience to follow the narrative ought to have a fair idea of the topography and general appearance of the country which has since grown into the town of Meriden. There was no part that bore an appearance of a village, for the farms were scattered here and there and the homes of the farmers were seldom contiguous.

The first notice of distinct religious services held in Meriden appears in a vote on the town records of Wallingford under date of December 1st, 1724, as follows:

"In respect of y^e^ north farmers the town voated that they may hire a Minister four months this winter on their own charge."

The distance from Wallingford was considerable and the request to be allowed to hold separate services in the winter was such a reasonable one that it could not be refused. This vote was the first act that in any way separated the territory of Meriden from Wallingford or that recognized that these north farmers were a distinct community. The year previous the General Assembly had added the territory north of Liberty street and south of Meriden Farm to the lists of Wallingford, as has been told in a previous chapter.

At a meeting held in "Wallingford Aprill y^e^ 27 1725: the town voated & agreed conserning our North farmers petition—that in case the Generall Courte[1] will grant y^e^ land north of our bounds called purchase land to joyne to them that they shall be a society by themselves and shall have such bounds as shall be thought proper in y^t^ case sett out by a committee chosen for that work by y^e^ town." The

1 The following petition was presented to the General Assembly:

To the Honble the Govr Assistants and Deputies in Genll Court assembled May 13th 1725—The Prayer of Nathanll Merỳam In behalf of himself and neighbours Inhabiting in or near the North part of Wallingford Humbly Sheweth

That the Town of Wallingford att their meeting April 27th: 1725 Did by their vote grant that there should be a Society in or near sd north part of wallingford upon the Condition in sd vote mentioned and appointed a committee to State bounds for Sd Society or Such part thereof as is Intended to be taken out of Sd wallingford wh together with the Lands Commonly Called Wallingford purchase Land not already granted to sd Wallingford west Society or to Farmington South Society we hope are and will be Capable of Carrying on and supporting the work of a Society and the Gospel ministry among themseives (especially if Mr. Belcher's farm were added) and the sd Inhabitants Living very Remote from anyplace of Publick worship viz. at the distance of 6: 7 & 8 miles and the nearest 4: Wee therefore urged by these pressing Difficulties and Encouraged by yor Honbl wonted paternal Care and goodness Do Humbly Pray this Honble Assembly that we may (with the addition of Mr. Belchers

General Court did grant the lands "North of our bounds" as already related and they therefore became a separate society in May, 1725. In May, 1728, the farm of Meriden was added and the parish henceforth was known under that name as has been related on a former page. It is a fair inference, therefore, that from December 1, 1724, the Meriden farmers held separate church services in their own territory.[1]

The story of the building of the church has been told so often that the tradition must be familiar to every one who has paid any attention to our early annals. To thoroughly understand it one must picture in one's mind's eye the appearance of Ann street. A highway ten rods wide, it ran from Curtis street eastward up Meeting House or Deer Hill, over the brow and nearly down to what is now Swayne avenue. The burying ground was in the highway and so was the church. The writer hunted in vain for an act of the town or of a private person, sequestering the land for these sacred purposes, until he suddenly discovered that the road was 165 feet wide; then the situation was apparent. Yale avenue was not in existence, and instead of by that route, one coming to the burying ground from Miller avenue used a road that can still be traced a little west of Swayne avenue and reaching Meeting House Hill highway a little east of the burying ground.

The tradition tells us that the farmers living in Milking Yard, Pilgrims' Harbor and south of Meriden Farm wished the church to be located near the junction of Curtis and Ann streets, while those living about Dogs' Misery desired it to be placed further east on the spot that was finally chosen. The material was all in place in this latter locality, ready to be put into shape; but during the night a party of men, presumably the Royces, the Merriams, the Fosters, the Collinses and Robinsons, brought teams and hauled the material up the hill to the west, to the place

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farm afore sd) be made a Distinct Society for Setting up and Carrying on and Supporting the Publick worship of God among or selves with Such Liberties powers and priveledges as other Such Societies have and do by Law Enjoy

And yor Petitioners Shall Ever pray

Nathaniel Merriam

This petition was accompanied by another sheet containing the following names—all persons dwelling in Meriden and evidently fellow petitioners with Nathaniel Merriam.

John ives	Josiah robeson	Samuel roys	Ezekiel roys
Samll ives	Jacob persons	Nathaniell meriam	William andrias
Elick Roberds	John Meriam	Theophilus mix	Timothy foster
Benjamin Ives	Abell roys	James Schovill	Joseph meriam
Israel hall	Eleizer peck	Thomas yale	Nehemiah may
Ebenezer pringle	William Meriam	John yale	Benjamin levit
John way	Samuell andrus	Roberd roys	Jonathan Seemer
Benjamin Whiting	Thomas andrus	william Cole	Micael mitchell
Timothy jerram	Josiah roys	Nathaniel roys	Samuel butler
William hough	John meriam	Amos Camp	Ebenezer Cooper
Bartholomew foster	Isaac roys	Joseph Cole	

1 There is a tradition that until the meeting house was built the services were held in the Daniel Hall homestead.

where they wished the meeting house located. The next day when the act was di covered there was great wrath on the part of the Dogs' Misery residents, and th Iveses, the Yales, the Levits, the Whitings and the Halls compelled the men, wh had worked all night to carry out their darling project, to spend the following da hauling the same material back to the spot whence they had removed it. Whethe there is any truth to the tradition one cannot tell, but it was firmly believed fift years ago. Mr. Perkins says that the church was about thirty feet square, an built in the very plainest style.



VIEW OF MEETING HOUSE HILL FROM THE WEST.

Arrow No. 1 indicates the remains of the stone wall which was the northern boundary of the te rod highway. Arrow No. 2 indicates the boulder marking the site of the first meeting house, an arrow No. 3 points to the south boundary of the highway. The graveyard is at the top of the hill.

From various evidences in the land records of which he has made a carefu study the writer is convinced that the old meeting house site is accurately marke by the great boulder set on the western slope of Meeting House hill, by the Firs Congregational Society, in the fall of 1904. Around this church there were prob ably several Sabbath day houses. There certainly was one, which was distinctl mentioned in a deed in 1740 as standing on the land north of the church. Ther is no record of one in the highway except in an inventory of the estate of Robe

Royce. The first house mentioned was just a rod square, or at least the land was, on which it was built. One as large as this would perhaps be used by two or more families; of course, during the "nooning," between "meetings," to repair the ravages caused by too close attention to long, doctrinal sermons; to thaw out one's numbed extremities, before a blazing fire after sitting in an absolutely unheated church in the dead of winter; and to consume a little food during the brief intermission, in order to be fortified against a second doctrinal discourse. During the summer, probably the vicinity of the spring, under the grateful shade



UNVEILING OF THE GRANITE BOULDER AND BRONZE TABLET OCTOBER 22, 1904, MARKING SITE OF FIRST MEETING HOUSE.

ast by the old oaks around its source was the usual place of refreshment of those who lived too far away to go to their homes during the noon hour.

The meeting house was finished in 1727 and the farmers must have hired arious ministers to preach for them during the following year. On December st, 1728,[1] the Reverend Theophilus Hall began to preach here and probably regularly thereafter. Early in the following year a petition was presented to the eneral Assembly, for at the May session the following vote was passed:

. Church Records.

"This Assembly do grant liberty to the inhabitants of the society of Merrida in the town of Wallingford, to embody themselves into church estate and sett with them an orthodox gospel minister: the said inhabitants first obtaining th consent of the neighboring churches."

The first church record, made by Mr. Hall, reads as follows:

"Wallingford (Meriden in Wallingford) Oct 9th 1729

on the 8th day of this inst the Christian Brethren of Meriden the North Socie in Wallingford met together at their meeting house with myself to come to a agreement as to matters of discipline in said church that was about to be settle in that place.

And the agreement between them and myself according to which it should b practiced in the church when settled, is principally comprised in two things.

1st the admission of members which was that such as desired admission t full communion should stand propounded a fortnight at least, and none of th Brethren making any motions or objections should be admitted.

2d as to duty with offenders that the church should have a vote in order to pa a sensure upon any, and at the conclusion of the meeting I repeated the agreemer as above written and told them that I should look upon it as an unanimous agre ment if none objected and not one did object anything against it.

Theophilus Hall"

This preliminary having been settled, on "the 22d of October a church wa gathered on a fast day observed by the society; and the 29th of the same mont Mr. Hall was ordained their pastor. The number of communicants was then 5 males 21, females 30."[1]

The roll call was as follows:

Robert Royce	John Hecock and wife
Saml Royce and wife	John Cole
Thomas Yale and wife	The wife of W^{m} Hough
John Merriam	The wife of John Yale
Bartholomew Foster	The wife of Joseph Cole
Robert Collins	The wife of Nath^{l} Royce
David Levit	The wife of David Rich
Ezekiel Royce and wife	The wife of Daniel Harris
Abel Royce and wife	The wife of S. Andrews

1 Dr. Dana's Century Discourse 1770, p. 41.

Benj. Royce and wife
Nath[1] Merriam and wife
John Merriam Jr. and wife
Joseph Merriam
Dan Balding and wife
Amos Camp and wife
Benj. Whiting and wife
Sam'l Ives and wife
Ebenezer Prindle and wife
John Way and wife
The wife of Tim Jerome
The wife of Benj. Curtis
The wife of John Ives
The wife of J. Robinson
The wife of W. Merriam
The wife of Jos. Royce
Widow Royce
Mary Hough
Eunice Cole

Although Mr. Hall began to preach in Meriden on December 1, 1728, he did not become a resident in the parish until Aug. 24, 1734.[1] At this time his house at the southeast corner of Curtis and Ann streets was probably finished and henceforth his residence was in Meriden. This delay in coming here to dwell was perhaps due to the small amount paid him for his services. He did not begin to keep accurate parish records until this date, showing that his whole time and attention had not been given to Meriden parish previously.

But the good parson after his removal to Meriden was faithful and unremitting in his attention to his duties and his forceful character made a great and enduring impression on his little flock; discipline was firmly enforced in his church and the early records contain numerous evidences of this fact. The most striking case is told in the following votes taken from the records. The General Statutes of the colony contained a clause at that time that forbade young men from meeting together after nine o'clock at night on the streets and from "making any Rout" or committing "any disorders at any time in the night season," the penalty being a fine of six shillings. Seven young men one evening in March, 1745, impelled by the desire to give vent to the exuberance of their feelings, met together and made considerable noise with bells and horns, to the great scandal of those who desired to sleep in peace and quiet.[2] These young men were all neighbors and lived in the territory south and east of the church. They were immediately apprehended by the civil authority; and the church, not to be backward in any good work, met together and passed the following vote on March 6, 1745: "The case of Enos Curtis, Benj[a] Yale, John Livingston, Samuel Levit, Noah Yale, David Levit and David Ives, as being under suspension from the holy communion, on account of lewd disorders committed in the night season, for which they were prosecuted in the civil law—was laid before the church & the same remaining *sub-judice* &

1 Mr. Hall's record of burials.

2 Perhaps to celebrate the departure of some of their friends for the Nova Scotia campaign which resulted in the capture of the strong fortress of Louisburg. One young Meriden man, Samuel Royce, went as a soldier in this expedition and paid the penalty with his life. The troops embarked in March, 1745.

not yet determined in the civil law, the question was put, whether the said case relating to the said persons, as it now lies before the church, and under the present circumstances, should be suspended till the third Monday in April next for consideration & voted in the affirmative.

Test, Theo. Hall, Pastor.

At a church meeting in Meriden April 15, 1745, the case of the above mentioned brethren was laid before the church for consideration, being brought on by the attested copy of the complaint to civil authority & the judgement of court against them, for disorders in the night season in assembling together with bells & horns, etc., which was laid before the Church & the said Enos Curtis, Noah Yale & David Ives before the church acknowledged that the said actions were neither justifiable nor commendable & they were really sorry that they had any hand in it & promised that they would do so no more & the church by their vote accepted them to communion--& said Benj^{n} Yale Samuel Levit & David Levit justifying their conduct in said affair, the church unanimously voted to apply themselves to the Association of N. Haven County at the next session for advice in the case— & then chose Mr. John Ives & Capt Nathaniel Merriam, their agents to lay the said case before the said Association, at the said session. Test. Theo. Hall, Pastor."

Mr. Ives refused to act and Capt. Merriam was made sole agent. The Association advised the church to hold the recalcitrant members under suspension until they agreed "to do so no more."

This action shows that the members of the community were held severely in check and illustrates how closely the parson guarded his flock from worldly contamination.

The General Statutes also contained this clause:

"And that whatsoever Person shall not duly Attend the Public Worship of God on the Lord's Day in some congregation by Law allowed unless hindered by sickness or otherways Necessarily Detained or Hindered shall incur the penalty of *Three Shillings* for every such Offense."

This law was not a dead letter by any means. Among the papers treasured in the Oliver Rice homestead in South Meriden is one of which the following is a copy:

"Wallingford february y^{e} 4th 1754: I the subscriber Do Enter this Complaint to Ezekiel roys Esq. and say: that Icabod Stark is guilty of the breach of the Law

by not Attending the public worship of God: on the Second third and fourth Lords day of January last past in any Congregation by Law Alowed

Ebenezer Cowles: grand Juryman."

It is fortunate for many that there is no such law now in force and that good Deacon Cowles has long been gathered to his fathers.

There are many references in old records to the custom of "dignifying the meeting house." It was a formal undertaking and one that required great care and circumspection. Perhaps a better idea of the rules observed can be gained from the following vote passed in a Wallingford town meeting on Nov. 5, 1720, than by an attempt at a more elaborate description.

"Y^e^ rules that s^d^ committee are to attend in y^e^ work of seating are as followeth viz. to have respect to y^e^ aged amongst us that has been servisable in y^e^ town, this to be left to y^e^ comitee to do in y^t^ matter as they shall think most just decent & reasonable & y^t^ s^d^ comittee shall have respect to those men that do & have borne commissions as they are to have respect to y^e^ aged as above s^d^, that is to say what is just decent & reasonable & voated the generall rule for y^e^ comittee in seatting y^e^ meeting house shall be the lists on which y^e^ charge has been raised heads only exempted & layed a two penny rate to be raised on this present list for the defraying the charge in finishing the meeting house" etc., etc. "April 25 1721 voated that no young men shall go up into y^e^ upper gallery to sitt there on y^e^ Sabbath day under 18 years old."

Would that we could have an adequate picture of this little church half way up the slope of Meeting House Hill with its faithful pastor and devoted flock. Perhaps we wrong them in calling it church. These Christians of colonial days bitterly resented such a term for their house of worship. In their doctrine, the church was the body of believers and they sang their songs of praise, followed the the prayers of the minister, and listened to his exhortations, in the "meeting house." If on the Lord's day one of these early Meriden farmers had been asked "are you going to church?" the reply would have been swift and in no uncertain tones, "no Sir! I am going to meetin'."

The temperature of the meeting house in winter must have been frightful at times, for there was never any artificial heat allowed except that the women in bitter weather carried foot stoves, little square metal boxes, filled with glowing coals from the home hearth and replenished, perhaps, at noon from the hearthstone of the Sabba'-day house. These were all that made the icy cold bearable to the women. "Men with bald spots on their heads were often compelled to put their mittens thereon to keep their heads warm,"[1] and the stamping of feet sometimes

1 175th Anniversary First Congregational Society, p. 21.

quite drowned the voice of the preacher. The congregation stood while the minister led the prayers, and the sermons were timed by an hour glass which was sometimes turned twice before the word "lastly" was heard; while the tithing man saw that order was kept, particularly in the galleries[1] and prevented any "tired" individual from leaving before "meeting" was ended.

The singing must have been anything but pleasing according to our modern ideas, for there was never instrumental accompaniment. At this date there were no singing schools[2] and each congregation evidently had its own idea of producing sweet melody, and the results must have frequently been atrocious. Just what version of the psalms was used in Meriden we do not know. It may have been that contained in the Bay Psalm Book which was used in many New England churches. This book was anything but creditable to New England scholarship, for the versification was appalling, and the meter and rhythm was something almost ludicrous. But the hymns were certainly sung and probably answered the purpose until perhaps Sternhold and Hopkin's version was adopted. "A New Version of the Psalms of David by N. Brady and N. Tate" could not have been used until after Parson Hall's death for we find on the society records of Wallingford at about that date, a record that for a number of months at Dr. Dana's desire they had made trial of that version and have now decided to adopt it permanently.[3] Probably Meriden fell in line shortly after. We find now and then a society record relating to the choir as, for instance, on "Feb 7 1774 voted that choristers shall sit in next pew north of pulpit"; on March 8, 1777, "voted that Jonathan Yale and Caleb Merriman Jr assist the choristers." Feb. 3, 1783, "voted that Joel Rice assist in singing," and on Dec. 26, 1786, "Barnabas Meky was chosen assistant chorister."

The people were summoned to meeting by the beating of a drum, and the records of Wallingford contain one or two references to the election of an officer for this duty.

The election of deacons took place shortly after the organization of the society. On December 14, 1729, Samuel Royce was selected the first deacon, and some days

1 There were probably no galleries in the first meeting house.

2 At a society meeting held in 1808 it was voted that the committee provide for teaching singing. At a meeting held in 1821 it was voted that the singing committee be authorized to unite with the Episcopal Society in employing a singing teacher. These are the only references to singing schools on the early records.

3 At the annual society meeting in Wallingford first society 1st Tuesday of December, 1766, the following from Revd Mr. Dana was read in said meeting:

"Gentm—Since agreeable to a very full vote of the church I have read to you Brady & Tates version of the Psalms in the afternoon of Lords days and on other occasions for near a year past upon Trial whereby you have been able to form a judgment of the same I would now refer it to you whether I shall continue to read it or desist. You are sensible that the old version of the Psalms has for some time been laid aside by almost all the congregations of this Government: and if it is your Judgement to receive Brady & Tates in its room you will know it will be very acceptable to

Gentm your friend & servant in the Gospel Jas. Dana.

Then the question was put whether Mr. Dana be desired to sing the version of Brady and Tate wholly—Voted in the affirmative."

later Robert Royce was elected as his colleague; both these men lived in the southwestern part of the parish, in or near to Milking Yard. They were undoubtedly of great asssistance to the pastor, and must have been satisfactory to the congregation as well for they served without additional colleagues until 1748 when Benjamin Whiting and Benjamin Royce were elected in November of that year.

The little meeting house on the western slope of Meeting House Hill continued in use for at least twenty-five years. As the inhabitants increased in numbers it was seen that it had served its purpose and that a new house must be provided.

We have learned that there was a very decided disagreement not to say quarrel when the location of the first meeting house was chosen. Apparently the same conditions arose in deciding where to place the second. The society was unable to come to an amicable agreement, so the matter was brought to the attention of the county court at New Haven. At the January session, 1750-51, Josiah Robinson and Benjamin Royce as agents for the parish "preferred a memorial representing that the inhabitants of s^{d} parish had agreed by their vote to build a new meeting house, and praying the court to appoint a judicious and disinterested committee to repair to s^{d} parish and view the same and affix a place." Accordingly the court appointed John Hitchcock, Deodate Davenport and John Hubbard a committee and what they did appears in the following memorial on file in Vol. IX. relating to ecclesiastical matters in the State Library at Hartford: "We, the subscribers, Did on y^{e} 16th Day of March, 1751, repair to s^{d} Society and affix a place and set a stake and stones around it near a highway that is called Lyman's highway[1] at y^{e} west part thereof. In our fixing s^{d} stake we alowed in our computation 2000 acres more north of s^{d} stake than there was south of s^{d} stake by reason of broken & rough land, which [has] among s^{d} broken land & north of it within y^{e} bounds of s^{d} Meriden about six or seven hundred acres of passable good land as we judge. In our setting of y^{e} stake at s^{d} time we did suppose y^{e} highway to be narrow y^{t} runs northerly & southerly & thought we had set s^{d} stake on y^{e} edge of y^{e} Rev^{d} Mr Halls land. But if it be six rods wide it stands a rod & a half in y^{e} highway from y^{e} westward side thereof." This location was very displeasing to Ezekiel Royce and Daniel Hough. The former, as we know, lived near Milking Yard and the latter at the corner of Curtis and Ann streets. There were, undoubtedly, others who agreed with them. These two men were so disturbed that they presented the following petition to the May session of the General Assembly 1752: "The memorial of Ezekiel Royce, Daniel Hough, and others * * * * humbly sheweth That application being made to y^{e} county court * * * for a committee to fix a place to set a meeting house * * * the court appointed * * * * * a committee for that purpose who pitch^{d} upon a Place which being greivious to your memorialists who are near half of the said

1 Apparently Lyman's highway was the name of present East Main street from the church running east. It extended no farther west until 1782.

Society * * * * * and by the Doings of said Court Concluded of the Place for our meeting House to our Greivious Disadvantage, and indeed to y^e^ Disadvantage as we suppose to the Society in general and without relieve unless by the Interposition of this Hon^ble^ Assembly whereupon your memorialists beg leave to observe that the Place set by the said committee is upon y^e^ Rev^d^ Mr Theophilus Halls land which renders it impracticable to use the Place for the Purpose projected. 2^d^ The s^d^ committee acted by mistake supposing the center of said society to be north of the Place where truly it ought to be esteamed by reason of much mountainous and wast land in the northern part of said society and sundry parcels of Land received in, which ought not to be. 3^rd^ There is another place South of the place set by the said committee much more commodious and to which the People might resort with less Travel and which your memorialists are apprehensive the maj^r^ part of the society would be better pleased than the Place now stated. Whereupon your Honours memorialists humbly pray this honorable assembly to take y^e^ affair into your consideration and annul set aside and make void the Doings of the said county court and appoint another committee" etc., etc.

In answer to this petition the Assembly summoned Joseph Merriam and Samuel Hough and the rest of the inhabitants to appear and make answer. After hearing both sides the Assembly refused to annul the action of the County Court and the committtee.

During the year the house was probably finished, for on December 19, 1752, Mr. Hall deeded a highway across his farm. It was to be four rods wide and to run north and south and to terminate north of the new Meeting House. In other words he deeded a highway already in existence. This was not an unusual circumstance.

On February 16, 1753, Mr. Hall deeded the house to Nathaniel Merriam, Jonathan Collins, Amos Camp and Timothy Andrews, a committee representing the society. The society records until 1755 are missing. The first entry found relating to the new church is under the date of December 11, 1755, when a receipt is entered of £150, advanced by Mr. Hall for building. It would appear, therefore, that the church was built by Mr. Hall and that the society gradually repaid to him the money advanced. His salary at that time was £50 and firewood annually. The only contemporary record of the size of the church that the writer has been able to find was made by President Ezra Stiles of Yale College. Mr. Stiles was accustomed to preach in Meriden quite often during the ministry of his brother-in-law, Rev. John Hubbard. In his diary, under date of September 25, 1772, he says: "'Meriden meeting house 64 x 44." This old church was considerably east of the location of the present one. The east end was about where the car tracks are located on Broad street. Back of it ran the highway, four rods wide, continuing on to Liberty street.

After Broad street was opened in 1799 the church stood in a triangle bounded by highways, and so it continued until 1830 when the present church was built and the old highway in the rear was closed. East and north of the church stood at least thirteen Sabbath-day houses, and perhaps more. The first entry on the land records referring to these houses was made on July 23, 1757, under which date we find Theophilus Hall deeding to "Deacon Benjamin Whiting, Ensign Amos Camp and Bezaleel Ives a spot of land sufficient for 3 Sabbath-day houses with stables adjoining of the dimensions of *those now standing* on said spot lying nigh and a little east of the meeting-house bounded north by the highway leading to Capt. Lymans and east south and west by my own land." These men lived in the extreme southeast district—too far away to admit of their going to their homes during the "nooning" on Sundays.

Others who owned houses of this sort were Jonathan Foster, Ephraim Hough, who owned the Hough Mills on Quinnipiac river, near Cheshire street, Joseph Edwards, who owned a farm south of Meriden farm, Reuben Rice, Phineas Hough, owner of what is now Baldwin's pond and dam, John Yale, who owned a portion of the old Meriden farm, Samuel and Dan Johnson, who lived respectively in Milking Yard and on Johnson hill in the west, Ezekiel Rice, the son of Deacon Samuel Rice, and the Cowles family, living on Ox Hill in Rice's farms. Two of these houses were twenty feet square and stood north of the church, and may have been used by two or three families each. The others stood on a tract of land east of the present location of Eli C. Birdsey's dwelling. The church must have presented a singular spectacle with all these small buildings in the vicinity. The only other buildings in the neighborhood were what was afterwards the Central Tavern and the barn near the site of the present Broad street Baptist church. Immediately in front of the church to the east was a parade ground where the local train bands performed their evolutions, and we find one contemporary account of their impression on him in the diary of Ezra Stiles who says under date of September 28, 1772: "Training day at Meriden: Company 93 Rank & file—119 on the List. Not above 3 or 4 above aet. 40." At this time John Couch was captain, Bezaleel Ives, lieutenant, and John Hough, ensign.

From 1755 the records of the society are fairly complete. The first meeting recorded was held December 4, 1755. Aaron Lyman was moderator and Jonathan Collins, Robert Collins, Abel Yale and Samuel Austin were appointed society's committee. Rev. Mr. Hall's family was assigned a pew for life, and then, as the question of pastor's salary was brought up, they adjourned and came together again on the 11th and voted to give him £50 and wood. This salary question was frequently bothering the parish and in 1757, after adjourning two or three times, it was finally agreed that the pastor's salary should be £54 and firewood. It took a committee of five to settle this momentous question,

and even the £54 did not decide the matter for it took another arbitrating committee to agree whether to pay the sum in money or in provisions, viz. wheat, rye and Indian corn.[1] In 1760 Mr. Hall's salary was made £70 and firewood, and that amount was thereafter annually paid him until his death in 1767. It is certain that it was not the size of his salary that made Mr. Hall a wealthy man. The parish in their annual meetings performed the functions of a town meeting, for they appointed school committees and laid a tax to support the schools and mapped out the school districts.[2] They appointed a grave digger and a sexton. The names of Captain Robinson, Esquire Lyman, Samuel and Ezekiel Rice were always conspicuous in these meetings, and the other names that we have met in describing the farms, occur with differing degrees of frequency. Now and then, a new one appears, as, for instance, that of John Couch who was elected one of the society's committee in 1760. He was afterwards a captain in the Revolutionary war. In 1764 the southwest district, that is Milking Yard or Rice's Farms, was given liberty to keep a school.

In 1765 a committee was appointed to buy the land east of the Meeting House as far as Aaron Lyman's Esq[r]. This was probably for a parade ground. At a meeting held February 23, 1767, we find the first record of the custom of dignifying and seating the meeting house. The first notice that the men and women were separated in the church services appears as follows: "Feb 7 1774 voted the society committee advise with those that sit in the fore seat and if they think best take away the bench from the womens side."

From various references in the records there seem to have been doors on the north, east and south sides of the church. That on the north side was, about 1772, closed and bolted and appears to have been used no more.

There were, perhaps, no formal pews until 1767. In that year it was voted "to take up seats in square body[3] except the fore seat and make pews" and it also was voted "to choose a committee to see that the work was done and to dignify and seat the meeting house." In fact, whenever repairs to the pews were made the members were reseated according to their position in life. New pews were apparently "the first dignity." This question of dignity was always an important one. For instance, on Jan. 29, 1801, Aaron Johnson promised to pay

1 At a meeting held in Dec., 1758, the scarcity of money is mentioned on account of the war and it was voted to pay Mr. Hall's salary in provisions until after the war is over.

2 "Feb 6 1776, Voted ye Society Committee shall call in ye Loan & excise money that belongs to ye Parish for the use of schools next March & let it out with good security upon lawful Interest to be paid yearly to said committee for use of schools only & to let not less than £5 to one man nor let it more than two years at one time."

"Dec 6 1773 voted to lay a Rate of one farthing upon the Pound for ye use of schools and each quarter or school to have their proportion of sd money according to ye list of each quarter." This shows that even at that early date Meriden was divided into school districts.

3 These were undoubtedly the square, high-backed pews so common a century ago and of which a few examples still remain. There were only three of these pews on each side or six altogether, as appears by a later vote.

the yearly tax for the support of the Presbyterian religion providing he and his family are given seats according to his standing in life. The "dignity" committee, after duly considering the matter, voted to accept the proposal of Aaron and give him a seat according to his list and age.

In 1767, on March 25, the Rev. Theophilus Hall died. His loss was a great blow to the little parish for he had been the strong man at the helm who always steered a wise course. While there may have been frictions during his pastorate they were all confined to the question of salary. His personality was so strong that he held his flock with a vigorous hand. That there were discordant elements[1] is proved by events in the pastorate of his successor, but they manifested themselves very feebly during the life of Mr. Hall. The parish, probably as a token of respect, paid the funeral expenses of the pastor, and then took up the question of choosing his successor. On Nov. 7, 1767, the majority of the parish made choice of the Rev. John Hubbard, of New Haven, but he did not suit the discordant element which has been mentioned and there were numerous conferences which were unable to arrange a compromise. Mr. Hubbard was not ordained until June 22, 1769, and the minor party would take no part in the proceedings but withdrew and formed a separate society and maintained another place of public worship for several years.[2]

The Rev. John Hubbard was born in New Haven Jan. 24, 1726-27, and graduated from Yale in the class of 1744. He studied divinity and was licensed to preach in 1746, but instead of following his profession he went into business in New Haven with Chauncey Whittlesey. He preached occasionally but had no parish until he was invited to Meriden. There was a suspicion that his beliefs were somewhat unorthodox, which accounts for the troubles in Meriden. He married Jan. 25, 1749-50, Rebecca Dickerman of New Haven. President Ezra Stiles, of Yale College, married Mr. Hubbard's sister and to this fact was due Mr. Stiles' frequent visits to Meriden. There are frequent references in his Literary

1 And even in Mr. Hall's pastorate these discordant elements manifested themselves. For instance, on May 24, 1762, Ebenezer Prindle, Gideon Ives, Jr., and Noah Yale entered a complaint to the consociation because Mr. Hall had exchanged pulpits with Rev. Jas. Dana, of Wallingford, whose orthodoxy was suspected by many. The consociation turned a deaf ear to the complaint and hardly dignified it by a formal hearing.

2 That this schism embraced an influential part of the population is proved by the roll of those who withdrew. They were:

Dr Isaac Hall	Levi Yale	Peter Penfield	Stephen Perkins
John Ives	Amos Camp, Jr.	Ebenezer Prindle	John Hall
Elijah Scofel	Timothy Ives	Amos Camp	Samuel Scovel
Samuel Penfield	Abel Yale	Nathaniel Penfield	Daniel Hall
Isaac Hall, 3rd	Edward Collins	Reynolds Beckwith	Elnathan Ives
Brenton Hall	Elisha Scofel	Noah Yale	John Berry
Dan Collins	Yale Bishop	Gideon Ives	

These separates met each Sunday in a house belonging to Joseph Shaylor, which stood on Gravel street a short distance north of the Penfield house on the other side of the street. It long since disappeared. The locality bears the name of Winket.

Diary to these visits and as he was one of the most distinguished men in New England, the people of Meriden must have congratulated themselves that they had the opportunity to hear this famous man so often.[1] Mr. Hubbard bought a farm of some ten or twelve acres and built a house in 1769 which occupied a site somewhere near that of the present residence of Edward Miller, No. 360 Broad street. The house is still in existence; it was bought in 1795 by Benjamin Curtis and by him given to his son, Ivah Curtis, who lived in it until 1800 when he sold it to Cornelius Hull; he in turn in two or three years sold it to Seth D. Plumb, who maintained a tavern there for many years. Mr. Miller, when he built his present residence in 1866, moved the old house to No. 229 Broad street, and there it still stands.

After Mr. Hubbard was ordained it was voted to give him a salary of £80 lawful money per year, one-half to be paid in wheat, rye and Indian corn, the other half in cash provided he supplies the pulpit in case of his own infirmities.[2] Mr. Hubbard was a forceful preacher and a gentleman of tact; these qualities combined with an estimable character and winning manners gradually drew back to the society those who had seceded, and the parish was prosperous and harmonious during the latter part of his ministry. In the winter of 1783-4 he was thrown from his sleigh and seriously disabled, which made it necessary to engage a colleague to assist him. At a meeting of the parish held September 6, 1784, a committee was appointed to supply preaching and September 22, 1785, the Rev. John Willard was permanently engaged, but did not become pastor until June, 1786. Rev. Mr. Hubbard died November 18th, the same year, survived by his widow[3] and two sons.

About this time there begin to appear on the parish records notices of withdrawals by various persons to unite with the Baptist and Episcopal societies which had been recently formed.

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1 In an entry by Mr. Stiles in his diary under date of September 25, 1772, he mentions that there was a congregation of 200 present in meeting on Sunday in Meriden. And in a letter to Mr. Hubbard in June, 1775, Mr. Stiles says: "The gloomy & dangerous Prospect of Things & the events forseen by many as coming upon Newport (tho' I dont so clearly forsee them) have determined me to send Kezia (his daughter) & commit her to your care . . . . I should like she might be kept to business, Spinning, Milking &c so as to lay a founda of a notable woman. Pray counsel her on the great Things of Religion & Virtue and Sobriety & call upon her daily to read her Bible." During the "British Invasion" of New Haven in 1779 Mr. Stiles sent his daughters, Ruth and Polly, to Meriden to stay with Mr. Hubbard. (From 1755 to 1778 Mr. Stiles was pastor of the 2d Congregational church of Newport, R. I., and from the latter year until his death president of Yale College.)

2 On Dec. 11, 1778, it was voted to pay Mr. Hubbard only in provisions. This was probably due to the hard times caused by the Revolution. The prices were as follows:

Wheat at 6s 8d per bush	Beef at £1 6s 8d per cwt
Rye at 4s 6d per bush	Wool in the fleece at 2s 8d per lb
Indian Corn at 3s 6d per bush	Flax 10d per lb
Oats at 2s 1d per bush	Butter 1s 0d per lb
Pork at £1 13s 0d per cwt	Good cheese 0s 7d per lb

3 This widow was his second wife—a Mrs. Frost of Newport, R. I., born Mary Russell: Pres. Ezra Stiles is supposed to have made the match.

Mr. Willard's theological tendencies were not pleasing to many of his parishioners and the church grew feeble in numbers and suffered a severe decline. At this time most of those who were alive when the parish was organized were dead and a new generation was in control. One of the last to go was our old friend, Esq. Aaron Lyman. He died in 1801. Others who died about the same time were Widow Ruth Merriam, aged eighty-nine, Captain Bezaleel Ives, aged seventy-two. In the issue of August 24, 1796, of the Conn. Journal, published in New Haven, was the following item:

"On the 12th of August the following persons dined at the house of Doct Hough in Meriden viz. Aaron Lyman Esq 89 years old: his wife 80. Capt John Webb 89 and his wife 84 and have been married 64 years. Phinehas Hough 83 and his wife 82. Noah Yale 82 and his wife 81 have been married 60 years. The widow Sarah Yale age 84.

After spending the afternoon in agreeable conversation on the things of this world and the world to come, they went to their respective homes expecting not to meet again till they meet in Heaven."

Sarah Yale was probably the widow of Abel. They lived in the old house still standing on East Main street a few hundred feet west of Paddock avenue. Noah Yale died in 1803 and John Webb and his wife[1] in 1799. Mr. Willard built a house, probably about 1787, at which time he bought a lot. This house is still standing, a square building with a roof fashioned somewhat like those we term Mansard. It is the second house on the southeast corner of Broad and Liberty streets, No. 583. It formerly stood perhaps one hundred feet farther north. In the year 1791 it was voted to divide the parish into seven school districts, presumably for the purpose of having seven separate school houses. There seem to have been two school houses in the center of the parish—one located east of the meeting house beyond the Sabbath day houses, and the other a few hundred feet south near the burying ground. Both these school houses are distinctly mentioned in deeds of this period. The names of the school districts were southeast, east, northeast, northwest, west, southwest and the center. In 1804 a census of the inhabitants belonging to the society is given on the records and their residences are located in the different school districts. The list follows at the end of the historical portion of this book.

The society appears never to have been satisfied with Mr. Willard. The records for a number of years contain constant references to disputes and disagreements relative to his salary. His theological tendencies were not pleasing to the people and the numbers of those withdrawing to other religious bodies were rapidly increasing. He finally left here in 1802 and removed to Vermont, but died in Meriden and is buried in Broad street cemetery.

1 Error: Mrs. Webb died in 1806.

In February, 1803, the Rev. Erastus Ripley was engaged as pastor, and while there was no question as to his orthodoxy, his personality was not pleasing. He was apparently a man of great sincerity but was totally lacking in tact and had no hold on his people. He probably was an ultra conservative person, who did his best to repair the damage caused by his predecessor's long stay in Meriden, but without success, for the desertions to other churches continued even more rapidly, until the society became dismayed and began to wonder if the church would become extinct. While here he built and lived in the house just north of Franklin T. Ives, No. 629 Broad street.

To the great relief of the society, he left here in 1822, and the same year Rev. Charles J. Hinsdale was engaged and was ordained on January 15, 1823. Mr. Hinsdale was a man of another stamp. He had life and energy and immediately began a series of revivals which brought numbers into the society. He was a good preacher and had tact and sociability to a large degree and was very successful in his work in Meriden. During his ministry the present Center Congregational church was built. During many years there were references to repairs made to the old church. Much money had been spent in these attempts to save the building, but in 1829 the situation had become so serious that it was deemed wise to appoint a committee to look into the matter thoroughly and report to the society. Although the church had been standing only seventy-seven years, the committee, consisting of Silas Rice, Fenner Bush, Nathaniel C. Sanford, Asahel Rice and Benjamin Hart, reported on September 28, 1829, that the front ground sill had been spliced three times, & many other beams were rotten, that the beams in the steeple[1] were in the same condition, and that the whole building was in a state of general dilapidation, and was not worth repairing. So on October 9, 1829, a subscription paper was drawn up and a committee appointed to circulate it, and soon the erection of the new church was begun, and wonderful to relate! it was voted to place in it two chimneys. The church was apparently finished in 1831 for in that year Mr. Hinsdale was instructed to "make suitable arrangements for the dedication of the new meeting house," and at the same time he was given permission to use the basement for a private school. Mr. Perkins states that the cost of the church was $7,000.

It was almost the first building erected in Meriden of any architectural pretensions.

Its front is in the form of an ancient Greek temple; the pediment being supported by six Doric columns of excellent proportions. The spire reminds one of the work of Sir Christopher Wren and doubtless the motive was borrowed from him, although it is not a copy. It resembles very much the spire of the old north church on the green at New Haven. There is reason to believe that the late Sid-

1 The steeple was added to the church in 1802 and bell bought.

ney M. Stone, of New Haven, was the architect of the Center Congregational church. Mr. Henry L. Gay, of Chicago, who was at one time employed in Mr. Stone's office in New Haven, has the impression that the building was designed by Mr. Stone and the drawings made by a Mr. Galway.[1] The design is a very pleas-



THIRD CHURCH.

ing one and the color, white, is in complete harmony with the architecture. The congregation is to be congratulated for having never attempted to "improve" the severe classic lines or to change the color.

1 The writer is under obligations to Mr. L. W. Robinson, architect, of New Haven, for these facts relating to Mr. Stone.

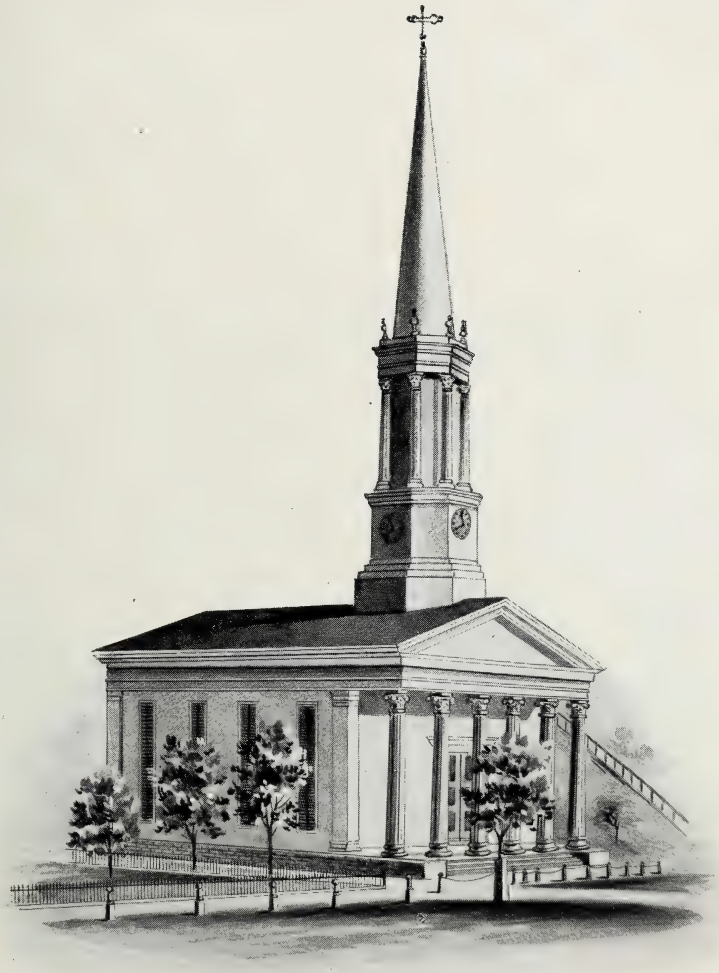
Dating from the organization of the town government in 1806 the old meeting house had been used for town meetings, and there had finally grown up the sentiment that it was not a proper thing to do, for in 1823 it was voted that a "committee be appointed to arrange a compromise with the selectmen, so that one-third of the town meetings only would be held in their church, provided the other societies (the Episcopal and Baptist) would open their doors for this purpose the rest of the time." "If such an arrangement could not be made the selectmen were prohibited from holding further meetings in the society's house." This vote created considerable friction, for the selectmen made the claim that the society did not exclusively own the church and that it was really a part of the town property. Then the society voted to close the doors against the town. This resulted in an examination of titles, with what results we do not know, for the records are silent. When the new church was finished an arrangement was made whereby the town was allowed to use the basement for public meetings. In 1831 a stove was bought to warm the church and at the same time it was voted to insure the building, and the next year a second stove was bought. Henceforth, the members could worship in midwinter without danger of freezing.

In March, 1836, Rev. Arthur Granger became the pastor. He was here only two years. His stay was cast in stormy times. It was in the midst of the Abolition agitation when strong feelings were in play and an attempt to give a lecture on the subject in the church by a Mr. Ludlow resulted in a small sized riot. The Rev. Charles Rich officiated during the years 1840-1. On May 19, 1841, Rev. George W. Perkins was engaged as pastor. It is impossible to speak of Mr. Perkins except in words of praise. A genial, cultured, attractive man, he at once won all hearts. He was a strong, forceful preacher, a man of convictions who was not afraid to express them, a leader of public opinion, and a great force in the community. His little history of Meriden is admirable in tone and accurate in its statements and he seems to have been the first individual in Meriden to excite an interest in the past. His portrait in Dr. Davis' History shows a face that must have been an inspiration to all who came in contact with him. The numbers of the society were largely increased during his stay, and in fact, Mr. Perkins' pastorate may be called the turning point in the history of the Congregational society.

Mr. Perkins was born in Hartford February 12, 1804. He graduated from Yale in the class of 1824 and then taught school in Cambridge, Mass.[1] During the incumbency of Mr. Perkins the society was divided; the larger body calling themselves the First Congregational society, removing to what was then West Meriden. Mr. Perkins in his history says, "But as the population increased rapidly there soon was need of another house of worship. As this increase was mainly in the western part of the town, it was decided to erect a new house at

1 One of his pupils was Margaret Fuller, afterwards Marchioness Ossoli, the brilliant woman who was the friend of Hawthorne and other leading literary lights.

the point usually styled 'the Corner,' or 'West Meriden.' Accordingly, the house we occupy at this time (1849) was here built at an expense of $8,000. It is 90 feet in length, and 56 feet in width. In addition to the cost of the house the land was purchased for $800." Mr. Perkins remained here un-



FOURTH CHURCH.

til 1854 when he resigned and went to Chicago to the First Congregational church. The ministers succeeding Mr. Perkins were Rev. George Thatcher, 1855-1861; Rev. Hiram C. Hayden, 1862-1865; Rev. W. H. H. Murray, 1866-1868. Mr. Mur-

ray's pastorate in Meriden will long be remembered. He was a brilliant and forceful preacher and achieved a national reputation. His church was crowded each Sunday by a congregation that fairly devoured his burning words. His sermons were models of style and eloquence. Such a man could not be expected to stay in Meriden and he was called hence to the Park Street church in Boston the latter part of 1868. He died in 1903.

Rev. W. L. Gaylord, 1870-1874; Rev. Alfred H. Hall, 1874-1879, a man beloved as few ministers have been; Rev. Thomas M. Miles, 1879-1881; Rev. Llewellyn Pratt, 1882-1883; Rev. Charles H. Everest, Oct. 1884, to July, 1885; Rev. Charles H. Williams, 1886-1889; Rev. Asher Anderson, 1890-1902; Rev. Albert J. Lord, 1902-.

The present granite church was begun in 1876 and completed in 1878.



FIFTH CHURCH.

CHAPTER XII.

Some fifty rods east of the first meeting house was located the first burying ground and, like the house itself, it stood in the highway or common. A few of the mouldering grave stones, memorials of these early settlers, are still in existence. The view from the sacred place is beautiful. To the east lies Little Success Hill, and over its summit loom the somber crags of the Besett range, while in the foreground to the south stretch the beautiful rolling meadows, pasture and woodland of the old Yale farm; in the distance are the spires of Wallingford, while Mt. Carmel or the Sleeping Giant like a great bulwark forms the horizon in the southwest, and at its left we catch glimpses of the Sound on a clear day.

The date of the first interments in the old burying ground we do not know, but it was doubtless as early as 1727. However, from the date of the first burial noted by Parson Hall in his records, until 1771 when this graveyard was abandoned as a place of sepulture, there were recorded 357 burials in the parish. But when the shaft in the middle of the lot was erected by the town in 1857, it was possible to save from oblivion the names of only twenty-nine persons, who were there entombed. To-day there are not more than twenty stones that are in a fair state of preservation. The rest have practically utterly disappeared. The isolation of the place has made possible this vandalism. It is sad to contemplate, and yet perhaps it could not have been prevented without maintaining a constant guard. It is hard to realize that this place was once the center of the parish. Just below to the east stood the home of Deacon Moses Mitchell, at the foot of Little Success Hill, and just this side of the house were his tan vats and yard, for he was the tanner of the parish one hundred and thirty years ago. Mr. Julius Yale can remember, as a boy, that the remains of the vats half buried in the earth were still in existence.

If one stands at a point in the highway perhaps a hundred feet east of the burying ground the old road can be seen running to the south and meeting Miller avenue at its junction with Swayne avenue. The latter road is quite modern. Standing at this same spot east of the burying ground, one can trace the old road which wound around the hill, to the northeast. It came out on the Middletown turnpike near the old Abel Yale place, and terminated on Gravel street, perhaps half a mile north of the turnpike. By this route those in the northeast and east came to the old meeting house, or to bury their dead in the old cemetery.

The roll of the twenty-nine known burials as recorded on the brown stone shaft erected by the town in 1857 is as follows:

On the north side:

Rev. Theophilus Hall, Pastor of the First Church, Mar. 25, 1769, ae. 62.[1]
Mehitable Hall, Sept. 11, 1767, ae. 16.
Timothy Jerome, Feb. 23, 1751, ae. 62.
Abigail Way, Sept. 12, 1741, ae. 12.
Daniel Hough, July 25, 1768, ae. 49.
Thos. Beech, May 14, 1741, ae. 83.
Phebe Merriam, Feb. 23, 1753, ae. 23.
Hannah Ives, Nov. 5, 1770, ae. 70.
Christopher Robinson, Dec. 6, 1760, ae. 60.[2]
Capt. Josiah Robinson, Apl. 2, 1766, ae. 67.
Theophilus Mix, July 3, 1750, ae. 53.
Rachal Andrus, Jan. 11, 1756, ae. 33.
Timothy Andrus, Nov. 25, 1743, ae. 23.
Hannah Royce, Jan. 12, 1761, ae. 91.
Samuel Johnson, March 2, 1777, ae. 23.

On the West side:

Benjamin Curtiss, Oct. 29, 1754, ae. 52.
Aaron Curtis, Dec. 18, 1763, ae. 20.[3]
Rebekah Lyman, Nov. 8, 1748, ae. 44.
Joseph Cowles, Nov. 30, 1760, ae. 83.
Mindwell Cowles, April 17, 1770, ae. 89.
Sarah Bishop, May 31, 1766, ae. 43.
Elizabeth Merriam, June 11, 1767, ae. 70.
Elizabeth Penfield, Nov. 20, 1765, ae. 18.
Deacon Samuel Royce, May 14, 1757, ae. 85.
Ezekiel Rice, Esq., Sept. 4, 1765, ae. 66.
Ebenezer Roys, Oct. 18, 1752, ae. 39.
Benjamin Roys, Jan. 20, 1758, ae. 53.
Joseph Merriam, Aug. 24, 1752, ae. 49.
Deborah Merriam, Aug. 12, 1761, ae. 52.
Ruth Merriam, Nov. 12, 1755, ae. 72.
Mindwell Rice, June 15, 1769, ae. 27.

On the south side of this shaft is the following inscription:

Erected
By the town of Meriden
1857

On the east side it reads:

In Memory of the First Settlers of the Town of MERIDEN
who were buried within and near this enclosure and
whose names so far as known are inscribed on
this Monument
The Meeting House in which they worshipped, and the
first erected in the town, stood about 50 rods
west of this Memorial

The inscriptions on the few gravestones remaining are given below:

Here Lies ye Body
of Eunice Daugtr
of Titus & Dinah
Merriman She
died Septbr ye 11 1756
in ye 2d year of her
Age

Phebe Daughter
Benjamin & Phebe
Roys She died
Novbr ye 25 1757 in
ye 6 week of her
Age

1 Error; he died 1767, aet. 60.
2 Error; he died ae. 26.
3 He was thrown from a horse and killed.

Here lies ye Body of
James Son of John &
Azubah Couch he died
Novbr ye 12 1755 in ye 3rd
year of his Age

In Memory of Mrs
Sarah Wife of Mr
Yale Bishop died
May 31 1766 in ye
43rd year of her Age
and was buried with
her Infant on her arm

In Memory of
Mrs Deborah Wife of Joseph
Merriam died Augst
12 1761 in ye 52
year of her Age
Death tho Awful
is but a sleep
To them that Gods
Commandments keep.

Here lies ye Body of
Oliver Son of Mr Ebene
zer & Abigail Roys he died
Decbr ye 6th 1753 in ye 7th
yer of his Age
These four things
Remember well
death & Judgement
heaven & hell

In Memory of
Mrs Hannah
Wife of Mr John
Ives Decd She
died Novbr ye 5th
1770 in ye 70th
year of her age

Mindwell
Wife of Mr Joseph
Cowls She died
April 17 1770
in ye 89th year
of her Age

In Memory of
Encn Daniel
Hough died
July 25 1768
in ye 49th year
of his Age

Here lies ye
Body of Rebekah
Wife of Mr Aaron Lyman
She died November
ye 8th 1748 in ye 44th
year of her
Age

In Memory of
Mr Christopher
Robinson died Decbr
6 1760 in ye 26th
year of his Age
as you are now
so once was I
Prepare for death
for you must die

Here lies ye Body
of Joseph Merriam
who died August
ye 24 1752 in his 49
year
Loving Friends behold
My Body turned to dust
O now prepare for death
For follow me you must

Here lies Interred
ye Body of Mrs. Ruth
Meriam formerly wife
of Mr John Webb
but died wdo of Mr
William Meriam
on Novr 12 A. D. 1755
Aged 72 years

In Memory of
Mr Joseph
Cowls Who
died Novbr 30th
1760 in ye 83rd
year of his Age

In Memory of Miss
Mehitable Hall
Daughtr of the Revd Mr
Theophilus & Mdm
Hannah Hall died Septbr
11 1767 aged 16 years
Happy ye dying youth
Whose early steps have
Trod ye Christian road of
Pious virtue up to god

Here lyes ye Body
of Ebenezer Roys
who died October
18 1752 in His
39th year
For Sin Man being curst
His Body turns to Dust
But Christ will Raise
His Saints in endless
Pardise

Deaⁿ Ezekiel Rice Esq
Aged 66 years
Departed this Life Sept 4 1765
To God and Man a faithful friend
In Serving both his life did spend
His Sun is set his work is done
Lies here beneath this Gloomy Stone
So Great & Good both High & Low
To Conquering Death their knee must bow

Here lies ye Body of
Decn Benjamin Roys
he died Jenry ye 2 o
1758 in ye 53rd year of his
Age: Bhold & see as you
Pass by: as you are now so once
was I as I am now so must
you be Prepare for death &
follow me

In Memory of
Theophilus Hall
Pastor of ye church who having for 37
years discharged the duties of his function
with distinguished fidelity and accomplished
Christian life, the uniform disciple of Jesus
Christ deceased Mar 23 1769[1]
In the 60th year of his Age
They that be wise shall shine as ye bright-
ness of ye firmament

In memory of
Mr Aaron Curtiss
he died Decbr
18th 1763 in ye
19th year of
his Age

In 1904 Ruth Hart Chapter, D. A. R., erected an iron fence around the old cemetery and in the following spring a hedge of Japanese barberries was set out just inside. In digging the trench the laborer noticed that it immediately filled with water; and to such an extent that he called attention to it for fear it might hurt the shrubs. The time was the latter part of April. This situation of affairs bears testimony to the accuracy of the schoolboy's information in the composition[1] already mentioned. In it he states "The first Burying Ground was so wet that they had to have another."

The old cemetery was abandoned in 1771. Among the old papers in the Oliver Rice homestead is one of which the following is a copy:

Whereas the Inhabitants of the Parish of Meriden did in their Meeting on the 18th of Febry last, agree to purchase a piece of Land of the Revd Mr. Hubbard for a Burying Yard. We the subscribers being desirous of a speedy accomplishment of said affair do herewith our

1 As already noted this should be 1767.
1 Page 29.

names subscribe the several sums that we will give towards purchasing said piece of Land. And do promise to pay them in to the Parish Committee within Nine Months after said Comtee shall receive a Deed of said land to secure the same to the use of the Parish as aforesaid—Meriden, March 11, 1771.

	£ s d		£ s d
Abel Hawley,	0 2 0	Josaih Merriam,	1 0
Ebenezer Cowles,	3 6	Ezra Rice,	2 0
Samuel Johnson,	3 0	Titus Rice,	1 4
Ezekiel Rice,	1 6	Thomas Merchant,	1 6
Solomon Rice,	1 0	Aaron Hull,	1 0
Daniel Howlt,	3 6	Moses Hall,	1 3 0
Ebenezer Cowles, Jr.,	1 0	Thos. Berry, Jun.,	2 0
Joseph Cowles,	3 0	Benj. Rice,	2 0
Wait Rice,	1 0	Timothy Foster,	3 4
Samuel Whiting,	1 6	Aaron Lyman,	0 4 0
Bezaleel Ives,	2 0	Abigail Rice, Wid.,	2 0
John Miles, Jun.,	1 0	Amasa Rice,	1 0
Timothy Cowles,	1 6	Samuel Leavit,	4 0
Theo Hall,	2 0	Hannah Hall,	2 0
Thomas Hough,	0	Noah Yale,	2 0

The following is a literal and believed to be a complete copy of the inscriptions on the old tombstones in the Broad street cemetery that are still legible; a number of the stones are in such condition that the names and epitaphs are forever lost.

In
Memory of Mr.
Archelaus Allen
who died
Aug 24, 1828 in
his 79th year.

Sacred to
the Memory of
Mrs. Prudence Allen
Wife of
Mr. Archelaus Allen
She departed this Life
Novr. 29th A. D. 1807
AE. 61

Free from this dream of life, this maze of care
The tender mother rests, and friend sincere:
She follow'd virtue as her truest guide,
Liv'd like a christian, like a christian died.

Aaron Andrews
Died
Oct 18 1845
AE. 80.
Charlotte Ann
His Wife Died
Dec 12 1851
AE. 81

In
Memory
of Mrs.
Abigail
Andrews
wife of Mr.
Denison
Andrews
who died
Oct 1th A. D.
1796 AE.
60 years

In Memory of
Mrs. Thryphena Late
wife of Mr. Archelaus
Allen & formerly wife
of Mr. Simeon Perkins
who died March 2d.
1832 Aged 81
years.

In Memory of
Mabel Allin Daughter
of Mr. Archelaus &
Mrs. Prudence Allen
who died Dec. 6th. A. D.
1802 AE. 22 years

Ah! cheerful reader pause the
tombstone view
Behold the grace of her whose
soul is fled.
Think! the Almighty God may
consign you
Soon to the clay cold regions
of the dead.

Aaron
died at Coventry
South Alabama.
Nov. 1840, AE. 35.
Alexander F.
died at Arkansas.
Sept. 1840 AE. 25.
Sons of
Aaron & Ann C.
Andrews.

In
Memory
of Miss
Rebecca
Daugh of Mr.
Denison
and Mrs
Abigail
Andrews
who died
Aug. 24th A. D.
1792, in the
18th year of
her age.

In
Memory of
Abner Andrews
who died
Dec 22 1825
Aet 69
Also Betsey his wife
who died
March 24 1846
Aet. 86

Clarissa R.
Wife of
Amon Andrews
Born Dec 15th
1808
Died April 11
1844
Aged 35 years

Here lies the body of
Mr.
Denison Andrews
who died June 30th A. D.
1807 AE. 77 years
He was a friend to morality
& episcopal discipline.

O mournful thought & must I
die
& in a silent mansion lie
What is my hope my Christ
my all
Into thy arms my spirit call

In Memory of
Mr. Elon Andrews
Who died Sept. 22d
A. D. 1784.
in the 63d
year of his age.
Sarah Andrews
died Apr 30, 1797
Aet. 60.

Mrs
Hannah Andrews
died
Sept 12 1825
AE. 18

Erected
In Memory of
Mrs. Hannah
Andrews late Consort
of Mr. Marvel Andrews
who departed this Life
Jan. 31st A. D. 1801 in her 29th
year. Also their babe
departed this Life
Jan. 31st A. D.
1801

Let not the dead forgotten ly
Remember that you all must die

Jane G. Andrews
Died
Sept 11 1870
AE. 68

Harriet Andrews
Died
Sept 1 1878
AE. 78

Sacred
to the Memory of Mrs.
Huldah Elizabeth
Andrews, wife of
Mr. Marvel Andrews
who died Nov. 20 A. D.
1819 in her 29th
year

Though in the paths of death I tread
With gloomy sorrow overspread
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill
For thou O Lord art with me still.

Levina daughter of
Oliver & Hannah
Andrews, died
Oct. 28, 1827
in her 25 year

Wm. H. son of
Oliver & Hannah
Andrews, died
May 29, 1827
in his 21 year

Marvell Andrews
Died Dec. 5, 1848.
AE. 83 years 2 mo.
Our Father has finished his
work and rests in peace

Sacred
to the Memory of
Mr. Moses Andrews
who departed this fleeting scene
Nov. 24, 1811.
Aged 77 years
The benificent Father of the
universe whom he feared, richly
endowed him with wisdom
of genius, and the adoreable
Redeemer of mankind, whom
he lov'd liberally blessed him
with piety of goodness: adorned
with all these noble gifts of
nature & grace this christian
man became a bright &
distinguished member in
the Lords Church. Reader
follow carefully his virtuous
course; it ends in peace.
Imitate his example: it
leads to God

Moses Andrews
Died
Oct 2 1860
AE. 76

Lucy Andrews
Died June 13 1832
AE. 86

Lucy Andrews
Died
Aug 25 1888
AE. 81

In Memory of Mr.
Nicholas Andrews
Who died Decembr
ye 21 A. D. 1784. In
The 59 Year of
His Age.

In
Memory of
Oliver Andrews
Who died
Feb 16 1839
AE. 68

Sacred
to the Memory of
Mrs Sally
wife of Mr.
Marvel Andrews
who died Oct. 30th
1816 in her 44
year

I know whom I have
believed, and am persuaded
that he is able to keep that
which I have committed
unto him.

In
Memory of Mr.
Samuel Andrews
Who died Aug.
ye 5th A. D. 1874 In
The 87 year of his
Age.

Likewise
The Remains of his
Wife Mrs Abigail
Andrews Who Died
Febr ye 13th A. D. 1786
In the 89th year
of her Age.

The sweet Remembrance of the Just
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust.

In Memory of Mrs.
Elizabeth Atwater
Consort to Mr. Stephen
Atwater. She Died
July 2d A. D. 1793; in
the 80th year of
her Age

I end a long and tedious life,
I leave a world of care and strife:
And while I pass through deaths dark road
I hope to rest in thee my God

In
Memory of
Mrs. Jane
late wife of
Mr. Samuel Atwater
& formerly wife of
Dea. Isaac Hubbard
who died
March 25, 1842,
Aet. 82.

The memory of the just is
blessed.

In Memory of Mr.
Stephen Atwater:
Departed this Life March
7th A. D. 1784: in the 69th
year of his Age

Let not the dead Forgotten Lie
Remember that your Born to die

In Memory of ——;
Stephen Atwater
He Died on the 27
of January A. D. 1817
AE. 74.

Surviving Friends you here may see
What I am now What you must be

In
Memory of
Mr. Daniel Austin
who died April
29, 1828 Aet. 66

Life is the time to serve the Lord
The time to insure the great reward
And while the lamp holds out to burn
the vilest sinner may return

In
Memory of
Mr
Joshua Austin
who departed this Life
March 4th A. D. 1809.
AE. 74 years &
4 months.

Learn to live well that thou may'st
die so too

Sarah
wife of
Daniel Austin
died
July 2, 1837
Aet. 76.

Mrs.
Amrillis Babcock
wife of the late Rev.
Cyrus Babcock
of Colebrook & formerly wife of
Jesse Hawley: died April
12th 1826 in her 42d year.

Stephen Bailey
died July 3 1842
AE. 82
Lydia
His wife
died April 6 1848
AE. 90

Alma
Daughter of
James & Bethiah
Baldwin
Died
Feb. 17, 1803
AE. 17.

In
Memory of
Achsah
wife of
Samuel Baldwin
Who Died
April 9th 1829
AE. 57.

Asahel Baldwin
Died
Feb. 4, 1865.
Aged 74

In
Memory of
Samuel Baldwin
who died
March 1 1844
Aet. 66

James Baldwin
Died
March 3, 1838
Aged 78

Bethiah
wife of
James Baldwin
Died
June 5, 1798
Aged 34
Also
Mary his wife
Died
July 18, 1838
Aged 84
James Baldwin
Three Years a
Revolutionary Soldier.

Charles Baldwin
died July 17, 1818
AE. 67

God my Redeemer lives,
And ever from the skies
Looks down and watches all my dust
Till he shall bid it rise

Mary M
Wife of
Giles G. Baldwin
Died
April 11, 1844
Aet. 20.

In Memory of Mrs.
Patience Wife of Mr.
Danniel Baldwin
who died March ye 13th
1771 in ye 89 year of
her Age.

Vincent Baldwin
Son of
Charles & Susanna
Baldwin.
died Sept. 2nd 1818
AE. 24

Be ye also ready for in such an hour
As ye think not the son of man cometh.

Lucy Ann
Wife of
Augustus Barnes
Died
April 24, 1849
Aet. 26 y'rs

Darius Benham,
Died Mar. 4, 1855,
AE. 71.

Cynthia C.
died Aug. 4, 1825, AE. 42.
Nancy B.
died Nov. 1, 1835, AE. 46
Wives of Darius Benham.

Grace Ann
Wife of
E. W. Benham,
died Dec. 30, 1849
Aged 20.

Jared Benham Jr.
Died At Quebec L C.
Aug. 1817 AE. 37.

Rebecca.
His Wife Daughter of
Capt. Joseph Hill,
Of H. B. M. Army,
Died at Guilford Ct.
Jan. 7, 1857, AE. 73.

Mrs
Nancy
late wife of Mr.
Darius Benham
& formerly wife of
Mr. James Couch
died Nov. 1, 1835
Aged 46 years

Jared Benham,
Died May 8, 1829,
AE. 73.

Elizabeth Benham.
Died Dec 5, 1841.
AE. 83.

Here Lies the
Body of Capt
Divan Berry
Who Departed this
Life Decemr 3d
A. D. 1783 In ye
49th Year of his AE.

How Loved How Valued Once
Avales thee not
By Whome Related or by Whome begot
A heap of Dust
Alone Remains of thee
Tis all thou art
And all that Live shall Be

Here Lies Interd
The Body of Mrs
Bethiah Berry Daughter
to Mr Divan & Mary
Berry, Who departed this
Life April ye 25th A. D. 1781
In ye 22d Year of her Age

Behold Young Friends as You Pass By
Come View the Ground Where I do lie
Ive Changed my Dress & Bridal bed
(Rest illegible)

Julia
Daughter of
Gershom & Lucy Birdsey
died Mar. 17, 1820
Aged 19 y'rs

May you dear youth come view my age
And be prepared to quit the stage
Renounce the world with all its charms
You then may rest in Jesus arms.

Sevelia
Wife of
Austin Bishop,
died Feb. 14, 1851
Aet. 33.

Loyal Booth
Mary Hall His Wife
Eliza Booth Sage
Their Daughter
Apr. 13, 1822. Aug. 21, 1898
Alice Daughter of
Philip & Eliza Booth Sage

Ebenezer W. Booth
Died
July 21, 1843
AE. 65

Betsey His Wife
Died
Feb 7 1842
AE. 56

James Bradley
died at Newbury
S. C. Sept. 9, 1820
Aged 24

Harriet Bradley
died Oct. 12, 1825
Aged 27
Wm. Bradley
died at Union, S. C.
Dec. 28, 1841
Aged 41

In Memory of
Mr.
Titus Brocket
who died Dec. 23d
A. D. 1805 in his
49th year
Also Ira, son of
Mr Titus & Mrs
Catharine Brocket
he died April 14th.
A. D. 1797 in his
14th year.

In
Memory of Ruth
wife of
William Bull
Who Died
Jan'y 8, 1835
Aet. 45.

Mrs
Catharine
Brocket wife of
Mr. Titus Brocket
died March 23d A .D.
1816 Aet. 66 y.

Harlow son of Mr.
Titus & Mrs
Catharine Brocket
died Feb. 18th 1810
Aet. 14 y.

In Memory
of Mrs.
Abigail Butler
Wife of Mr.
Divan Butler
who died Dec. 22d
A. D. 1841 in her
34th year.

Lord I commit my soul to thee
Accept the sacred trust,
Receive this nobler part of me,
& watch my sleeping dust.

In Memory of
Mr.
Comfort Butler
who died Feb. 19, A. D.
1826 in his
83 year.

The aged saint wean'd from the earth
Longs to enjoy his heavenly birth

In
Memory of
Mrs.
Mary
wife of
Mr. Comfort Butler
Who died Oct. 28, 1823
In her 82 year.

In
Memory of
Albert Butler
who Died
Nov 28 1844
Aet. 43

John Butler
Died
Oct. 6th, 1852
AE. 82.

Divan Butler
Died
Nov 23 1858
AE. 79

Mary Little
his wife
Died Jan 20 1863
AE. 83

Philomela
wife of
John Butler
Died Mar. 20, 1809,
AE. 32

Philomela
Daughter of
John & Susannah
Butler,
Died July 17, 1814,
AE. 2 yrs, 4 mo.

Lemuel Butler
Died
Dec. 11, 1852,
AE. 78.

Salina
Wife of
Lemuel Butler,
died Sept. 25, 1842
Aged 56 years
& 6 months.

Samuel Butler
died Nov. 6, 1822.
Aged 55 years

Lois His Wife
died Sept. 6, 1837
AE. 66.

Fanny Butler
their daughter
died July 14,
1839. Aet. 33.

Susannah
wife of
John Butler
died Mar. 1, 1865
AE. 83.

Ruth
wife of
John Butler
died Sept. 30, 1799
AE. 22

Julia
daughter of John & Ruth
Butler
died Oct. 2, 1799
AE. 8 mos.

In
Memory of
Xemena
wife of
Ozias Camp
and daughter of
Deac. Nath'el &
Hannah Yale
Who died Nov. 7.
1814
AE. 24.

Lewis C. Carter
died at Barber-Ville Ala.
Nov. 27, 1840
Aet. 40.

Harriet C.
Daughter of
Lewis C. & Maria Carter
died Jan. 26, 1846
AE. 17 y's

Orange A. Carter
Died
Feb. 15, 1849.
Aged 23.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

Gilbert S. Carter,
died June 1, 1849,
AE. 11.

Far from affliction, toil and care
The happy soul is fled:
The breathless clay shall slumber here
Among the silent dead.

In
Memory of
Jesse Churchill
Who Died
Mar. 29, 1842
in his 60 year.

Mr.
David Clark
died Aug. 12
A. D. 1825
AE. 39.

David Clark
Died June 19, 1828,
Aged 42 yrs.

(Illegible)
His Wife
Died Nov. 16, 1860

Partrick Clark
Died
Aug. 28, 1851
AE. 76.

Lydia, His Wife
died Sept. 8, 1853,
AE. 70.

In
Memory of
Polly Clark
Who departed this life
Nov. 13, 1843.
Aet. 65.

Sarah G.
Wife of
Remick K. Clark
Born
Feb 10 1805
Died
June 7 1844
Aged 39 years
3 months
And 28 Days

Her record is in
Heaven

Hiram
Son of
David & Adah
Clark
died at Aiken, S. C.
Feb 19 1844
Aet. 21

His end was peace
Hope.

This Monument is
erected by his friends
& associates as a tribute
to the memory of
Curtis R. Collins
son of John B. &
Catharine Collins
who died Feb. 22
1834 Aged 17 years

How short the race our friend has run
Cut down in all his bloom.

Sacred
to the Memory of
Capt.
Dan Collins
who died Nov. 9th A. D.
1819 Aet. 79.
years

This stone
is erected by her bereaved children
to the memory of Susannah
wife of Capt. Dan Collins
who died Oct. 14, 1821
Aged 67 years

Her pious Life & conversation
is the only consolation for surviving
friends & the best pledge of her
happy exchange of worlds.

In
Memory of
Mr
Edward Collins
who died Nov. 11, 1826.

L.

In
Memory of
Lyman Collins
Who Died
March 3, 1856
Aged 71.

E.

In
Memory of
Elizabeth
Wife of
Lyman Collins
Who Died
Nov. 7, 1845,
Aet. 48.

Sacred to the
Memory of Mr.
Beri Couch
who died April 21,
A. D. 1826
Aged 35 years

He was humane & charitable & through life maintained the most unsulied integrity.

In
Memory of
Ira Couch,
Who Died
Dec. 26, 1845,
Aet. 41.

In the midst of life we are in death.

Erected
In Memory of
Mr.
John Couch
who died
April 11th A. D. 1806
in his 82
year.

In
Memory of
John Couch,
who died
Sept. 12, 1828:
aged 34 years.

C.

Erected to the me
mory of Mrs Azubah
Wife of Capt. John
Couch. she died May
25, 1799, Aged 73

And in the Lively hope of seeing Jesus as he is

C.

Pile

Pass not by this monumental
Till you have stood and paus'd
awhile
Ore this my Grave, for you
must die
And be entom'd as well as I.

John Couch
died Sept. 3, 1807
Aet. 44

Anna Merriman
formerly wife of
John Couch
died Feb. 17, 1843
Aet 83

The dust returns to the earth as it was and the spirit to God who gave it
But the trumpet shall sound
and the dead shall be raised.

In memory of
Mr.
James Couch,
Who died Oct 27
1824
aged 39 years

By his conjugal & parental solicitude & affection has left the best consolation to his afflicted companion & bereaved children that of having died like a
(Illegible.)

In Memory of
Mrs. Mary Cowl
Consort to Deac.
Eben^{r} Cowl
died April 22d
A. D. 1777. AE. 50

Memento Mori.

Joel Cowles
Died
July 9, 1810
in his 60th
year.

Erected to
the Memory of Dea.
Ebenezer Cowls
Who died Aug 12th
A. D. 1800
in his 83 year

Farewell my friends
A short farewell
Till we shall meet
You all again.

Erected to
the Memory
of Mr.
Elisha
Cowles
who died
Nov. 23d A. D.
1799 AE.
50 years.
Also of
Mrs
Rebekah
Wife of
Mr. Elisha
Cowles
who died
Aug 15th A. D.
1785 AE.
30 years

Heaven gives friends
Why should we complain
If heaven resumes
Our friends again.

Elisha Allen Cowles
Died
Aug 27 1853
Aged 44 yrs

Allen D.
His Son
Died Dec 8 1861
Aged 14 yrs

In Memory of
Phebe Cowles
daughter of Elisha
who died Jan. 11,
1830 in the 36
year of her
Age.

In Memory of
Mr.
Moses Cowles
who died April
16th A. D. 1804
AE. 52 years

Man like a flow'r soon faids
away
Nor long continues in one
stay.

Here lies deposited untill the
resurection the body of Mrs.
Rebekah Cowls, Wife of the
late Mr. Joseph Cowls she
departed this life May 13,
A. D. 1811: in the 88 year of
her age

at her right hand lies the
body of Mrs Rebekah Mitchel,
wife of Mr. Jotham Mitchel,
she departed this life May
15 A. D. 1811 in the 54 year
of her age

We must through much tribulation
enter into the kingdom of Heaven
Acts 14. 22.

Roswell Cowles
Died
July 24 1848
AE. 68

In
Memory of
Laura Wife of
Roswell Cowles
who died April
24 1827 Aged
44 years

In
Memory of
Harriet, Wife of
Roswell Cowles
Who died March
5th 1832 in
her 43d
year.

In
Memory of
Mary Ann,
daughter of
Roswell &
Laura Cowles
who died Oct. 10,
1826 Aged
21 years.

In
Memory of
Aaron Curtis
who died
Dec. 24, 1841
Aet. 77.

In Memory of
Mr. Abel
Curtis
Who died Nov.
1st A. D. 1797
AE. 67
Memento Mori

Alfred P. Curtiss
Died
July 21, 1870,
AE. 53
Emeline Amelia
Wife of
Alfred P. Curtiss
& Daughter of
Levi & Abigail Ann
Bradley
died July 19, 1847.
Aet. 27.
Sarah M. Hitchcock
Wife of A. P. Curtiss
died Dec. 3 1857
Ae. 24

In
Memory of
Patience, Wife
of Abel Curtis
Who died Dec. 22
1828 Aet. 86.

In
Memory of
Mr.
Benjamin Curtis
Who died Jan. 16,
A. D. 1822
AE. 86
Time how short Eternity how long

Erected In memory
of Mrs.
Mindwell Curtis
Wife of Mr
Benjamin Curtis,
She deceast June
8th A. D. 1807, in her
63d year

The dust has to the dust returned
& tears bedew'd the lonely way,
The silent corpse lies now intomb'd
Beneath the cold and dampning clay.

But oh ye mourners cease to weep,
Receive with joy some cordial charms,
& view her in the world of bliss,
Encircled in her Saviours arms.

In Memory of
Benjamin Curtiss
who died
Oct. 23, 1843
Aet. 76.

One hour in apparent health
the next cold in death.

Mrs
Mary Wife of
Mr.
Benjamin Curtis
Died Feb. 20, 1835
Aet. 60.

The righteous hath hope in his death

In Memory of
Benj. Upson
son of Mr.
Asahel & Mrs.
Mehitable Curtiss
who died Sept.
2d 1835 Aged
18 years.

Mr.
Chauncy Curtis
died Dec. 6, 1824 in
his 45th year.

Mrs.
Anna Curtis
his wife died Nov.
5th 1826 in her
41st year.

In
Memory of
Elisha Curtiss
Who Died
July 26, 1847
Aet. 74

Mark the perfect man and behold
the upright for the end of that man
is peace Ps. 37. 37.

Mary his wife
died Aug. 29, 1857
AE. 72.

Weeping
friends Erected
this Monument to
perpetuate the memory of their
most dear and valuable friend
Mr. Amasa Curtis
He was snatch'd from Life & all his
comforts & pleasure very suddenly
in the 39th year of his age
Dec. 2 A. D. 1808.
Living he was much esteemed and
beloved & dying was greatly lamented
He was a very kind & affectionate hus
band Father & friend he was a mild
& peaceable Neighbor & Citizen he loved his
Country & most ardently wished
the happiness of all mankind.

In
Memory of
Elisha Curtis
who died
July 24 1831
Aet. 80

In memory of
Mrs Sarah wife of
Mr Elisha Curtis
who died Nov 29
1825 Aet. 77 y's

Mrs
Abigail Curtis
Wife of Mr.
Elisha Curtis
died Feb. 28, 1826
Aet 47

Watch therefore for ye know
not what hour your Lord doth come
Math. XXIV. 42

Mrs.
Polly Curtis
Wife of Mr.
Amos Curtis
died April 30, A. D.
1818 Aet. 31 y.

Maria Curtis
Daugh. of Amos & Polly
Curtis died April 13
A. D. 1818 Aet. 12 y.

and Ruth died Dec.
3d A. D. Aet. 3 y.

Polly
daughter of Amos
& Polly Curtis
died April 10, 1826
Aet. 14

Amelia
wife David Gilbert
& daughter of Amos
& Polly Curtis died
July 15, 1827 in
her 24th year

Hannah
Wife of Ivah Curtis,
died Oct. 8th 1844,
Aet. 66

Mary R.
their daughter died at Otis
Mass. July 1st, 1832
Aged 21.

Then soft be thy slumbers in thy lowly bed
Though rudely earths tempests sweep over thy head
The Saviour remembers thy slumbering dust
And will wake thee again when He calls for the just

Laura Curtiss
Died
Aug. 5, 1872
Aged 74.
Julianna Curtiss
Died
Dec. 13, 1856
Aged 55.

In Memory of
Mrs Meriam Curtis
Wife to Mr. Benjam
Curtis Deceast Who
Departed this Life
May ye 29th A. D. 1776 In
ye 74 year of her Age

Weeping
friends erected this
monument to perpetuate
the memory of Mr.
Marcus Curtis
son of Mr. Jesse & Mrs.
Martha Curtis who
died Dec. 11, 1812
AE. 31 years.

In Memory of
William Curtis
son of Abel &
Patience Curtis
Whose life was
closed Oct. 14th A. D. 1800
in the 19th year
of his Age.

In
Memory of
Sarah
Wife of
William A. Curtiss
Who died
March 24, 1847
Aet. 30

There shall be no more death

Samuel Curtiss
died Nov 8 1838
Aet. 57
Polly
His Wife
died Nov 5 1846
Aet. 61

Rhoda Pantlin
Wife of
Jesse Curtiss
died Aug 10 1844
AE. 54 ys 6 mo.

From her labors she doth rest
And in Christ I hope shes blest

Asenth
Wife of
Darling Dayton
Died Aug. 13, 1845
Aged 52.

In
Memory of
Darling Dayton
who died Jan. 24, 1826
Aet. 34

My breath is gone my spirit's fled
My body's mouldering with the dead
But Jesus my redeemer reigns
He's paid the debt he's broke the chains
And eas'd my body from its pains.

Erected to the
Memory of Mrs.
Lydia Davenport
consort of Mr.
John Davenport
who died Jan.
25 A. D. 1792
Aged 45 years.

In
Memory of Mr.
John B. Douglass
who after a severe illness
died June 22d A. D. 1811 in
his 53d y.

He was a kind Husband
Parent & Neighbor He was
respected as a Christian and
unerversally esteemed upright
in his dealings

On God for all events depend
You cannot want when God's
your friend.

Roxey
Wife of
Ariel Ensign
Born Apr. 14, 1785.
Died Oct. 29, 1840.

In
Memory of
Mr. Joel Foster.
who died Nov. 20th, 1814
AE. 48

My flesh shall slumber in the ground
Till the last trumpet joyful sound
And burst the chains with sweet surprise
And in my saviours image rise

In
Memory of
Mr. Levi Foster
Who died Dec. 19th
A. D. 1814 AE. 42

Nor pain nor grief nor anxious fear,
Invade thy bounds, no mortal woes
Can reach the peaceful sleeper here,
And angels watch his soft repose.

Also in Memory of
Mr. Homer Foster
who died at Pittsburg
Penn July 1st 1832
Aged 26 years

In the midst of life we are in death.

In
Memory of
Levi Foster
who died
Sept. 2, 1844,
AE. 38.

Sarah
Wife of
Levi Foster
Died
Aug. 28. 1849,
Aged 74.

Lucy Foster
Died
June 4, 1890
AE. 91.

In Memory of
Mr.
Matthew Foster
who died Feb. 13
1835 Aged 54 years
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

In
Memory of
Noah Foster
who died March
27, 1833 in his
64 year.

In
Memory of
Purlina
Widow of
Noah Foster
who died
May 25 1843
AE. 73 y's

Mrs
Anna Foster
wife of Mr.
Noah Foster
died Dec. 2d 1824
Aged 51 years

The future world repays with bliss
The trials saints endure in this.

Lucy
Widow of
Joel Foster
Died
Dec. 12, 1862
AE. 90.

In
Memory of
Othinel Foster
son of Mr.
Noah & Mrs.
Anna Foster
who died Aug. 5th A. D.
1818 in his 19th
year.

As blooming flowers that fade at noon
So lovely youth may be cut down.

In Memory of
Mrs. Thankful
Wife of Mr.
Timothy Foster
She died March ye
9th 1771 in ye 69th
year of her Age.

In Memory of
Mr. Ozias Forster
Who died July 11th
A. D. 1789 in his
30th year.

Let not the dead
Forgotton ly
Remember you
Were born to die

Charlotte
Wife of
Matthew Foster
died May 18, 1838
Aet. 53

The righteous rest in hope.

Miss
Laura Foster
died Nov. 9, 1835 in
her 39 year.

Samuel W. Foster
died at Penn Yan
State of New York
July 24, 1831 in his
39 year

In Memory of
Mrs Elizabeth Foster
Consort of Mr. Thomas Foster
who died Dec. 19th 1815
AE. 77

Death is to us a sweet repose
When we in faith do die
Believing what the Lord hath said
That we shall reign on high

Elisha Frary
died March 21, 1842,
Aet. 58.

In
Memory of
Mr. Samuel Frary
Who died May 10th
1826 Aet. 84
And of Mrs.

Lucy his wife who
died Sept. 17, 1812
Aet. 61

In Memory of
Miss Anna Guy
Who departed this Life
Janry 11th A. D. 1789
in the 21st year
of her age

Orchard Guy
Died
Jan. 11, 1850
AE. 80

Lois
Wife of
Orchard Guy
Died
Aug. 31, 1862,
AE. 86.

In
Memory of
Giles O. Griswold
Who died
Nov. 13, 1840
AE. 65

Also Lucy
his Wife
died Feb. 22, 1822
AE. 42

To the memory of
Mrs. Eliza Ann
wife of Mr.
Giles O. Griswold 2d
who died Aug. 27, 1836
Aged 28 years.

How tender the tears and the sighs
A husband and orphan bestow
Sweet spirit look down from the skies
And pity the mourners below.

Jesse Griswold
died Apr. 21 1840
AE. 62.

Fanny
his wife
died Jan. 1, 1821.
AE. 41.

Angeline
their daughter
died Nov. 25, 1820
AE. 9 y's

Mr.
Cyrus Griswold
died Feb. 15, 1836
Aged 30 years
& 11 Months
Mr. Giles Griswold
Died Sept. 10, A. D.
1818. Aet. 70.

Mrs.
Eunice, his wife
died Oct. 25, 1826 in
her 74 year

Our Savior's smiles dispels the gloom
And smooths the passage to the tomb.

In Memory
of Mrs.
Lois Hall
wife of Mr.
Abner Hall
who died Dec. 20
1822 in her 22 year
A virtuous life & a
peaceful death.

Polly
wife of
Augustus Hall
died Aug. 31, 1819
in the 33 year
of her age.

In
Memory of
Sarah wife of
Benjamin Hall who
died March 17, 1792
in the 19 year
of her Age.

Beri Hall
Died
April 6, 1832
AE. 19 y'rs
Son of John W.
& Polly Hall

Sweet peace and heavenly
hopes and humble joy,
Divinely beam'd upon his
pious mind.

In
Memory of
Mrs Rebecca Hall
wife of
Mr. Collens Hall
who died
April 16, 1811
In the 37th year of her age.

In
Memory of
Mr.
Daniel Hall
He died Oct. 26th A. D. 1805
in his 79th year

Also in memory of Mrs.
Patience, wife of Mr.
Daniel Hall. she
died July A. D. 1756
AE. 30 years

Also in memory of Mrs
Zerviah wife of Mr.
Daniel Hall, she
died Oct. 6th A. D. 1777
AE. 41 years.

Brenton Hall Esq.
Died Nov. 25 1820
AE. 82 y's

Abigail
his Wife
Died May 5, 1837
AE. 88 y's

In
Memory of
Daniel Hall
who died
Jan. 1, 1829
in his 60 year

Some walk in honors gaudy show
Some dig for golden ore
They toil for heirs they know not who
And straight are seen no more

Elizabeth
Wife of
Daniel Hall
Died
May 5, 1859
AE. 83

Grandison Hall
Son of
Casper & Levinna
Hall
died May 1, 1833
Aged 18 years

The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

This monument is erected to the
Memory of Col.
Solomon R. Hall
who died at Baltimore
March 18, 1825, Aet. 44

Charles E. son of Solomon
& Jerusha Hall died Oct. 11
1810 AE. 5 y 3 m. 20 d.

Susan their Daughter died April
24, 1812 Aged 1 y. 7 m. 16 d.
& Also of Andrew J. their son who
died at Baltimore April 30, 1815 Aged
3 years.

Tis God that lifts our comforts high
Or sinks them in the grave
He gave & oh my soul be still
He took but what he gave.

Sacred to Memory
In this Sepulchre lies buried
Doctor Isaac Hall,
who departed this Life
in the Faith and Hope of the Gospel,
on the 27th Day of March A. D. 1781
Aged 66 years.
to the great Loss and Grief of his Friends
and universally Lamented as
A Physician
of eminent Reputation and Usefulness
very skilful in the various Disorders of
the human Body:
and in Clinical Practice excellent
laborious and successful.
The lowly Cot and lofty Dome
With joy his healing art proclaim
And teaming Nature sav'd from Death
With grateful Tears embalms his Name.

In Memory of
Mrs. Mary Hall
Consort to Doc.
Isaac Hall
Who departed this Life
Oct 9th 1791 in the 75th
year of her Age
I end a long and tedious life
I leave a world of care and strife
And while I pass through deaths dark road
I hope to rest in thee my God.

In Memory of
Mrs. Ruth, Wife
of Deacon
John Hall
who died Sept 9
1829 in her
64 year.

Mr.
John Hall 2d
died July 9,
1836 in his
29 year.

Dea. John Hall
Died
April 21, 1851
aged 83

In Memory of
Mrs Elizabeth
wife of Mr.
John Hall
who died Oct. 21th
A. D. —— in
her 71th year

In Memory of
Huldah Daugh
to Mr Timothy
& Mrs Huldah
Cowls. Who
died Sept. 29th
A. D. 1795 AE. 17
years

In Memory of
Mr.
John Hall
who departed
this life May 15th
A. D. 1795 AE. 72 years
Thrice happy if
Prepared to meet
A change so awful
& so great.

In Memory of
Mr. Moses Hall
Who died July 4th
1835 aged 87
years

Maria Hall
Died
May 5, 1846
in the 31 year
of her age.

John W. Hall,
died April 24, 1865,
AE. 79.

Polly, his wife
died May 16, 1868, AE. 79.
years

Hall.
Sons & Daughters of
J. W. & P. Hall
Beri,
died Apr. 6, 1832.
AE. 19.

Erastus,
died Aug. 5, 1847
AE. 20.

Lydia,
died Mar. 3, 1836
AE. 6.

Clarissa,
died Nov. 23, 1863
AE. 44.

In Memory of
Mr.
Joseph Hall
Who died March
13th 1831 in his 61
year

In
Memory of
Mr. Phinehas Hall
who died Dec. 27, 1819
in his 69 year.

William Hall
Died
In Brighton Ohio
May 13, 1877
AE. 61

In Memory of
Samuel Hall
Who died March 9th
1795
AE. 26 years

Nor let Soft Slumbers close your Eyes
Before you've recollected thrise, the train
of actions
thro' the Day
Where have my feet chose out their way
(copied as far as can be read)

In
Memory of
Mr.
Theophilus Hall
who died
May 17th A. D. 1804
in his 63d
year.

In
Memory of
Maryett
Wife of
William Hall
Who died
Sept. 18, 1841
AE. 27.

Let not your hearts be troubled:
ye believe in God believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many man
-sions if it were not so I would have told
you. I go to prepare a place for
you.

To The
Memory of
William B. Hall
Aged 28

Perished in the Conflagration
of the Manufactory of
Julius Pratt & Co.
Nov. 27, 1846.

Mary Ann Hall
Died
April 12, 1894
AE. 76

In
Memory of
Mrs.
Elizabeth Hall
wife of Mr.
Theop Hall
Who died March
17, 1824, AE. 74

Blessed are the dead
which die in the Lord.

In Memory of
Mr.
Benjamin Hart
who died Oct 7
1836 Aged
85 years

Jerusha Hart
Died
Aug. 26, 1832
AE. 76 y're
wife of
Benjamin Hart

Lucy Jane
Wife of
Philo Hart
died May 23, 1847
AE. 23

In
Memory of
Julia Harrison
daughter of
Leonard &
Lucy Harrison
of Southington who
died Nov. 7, 1820
Aet. 18.

Mr.
Jesse Hawley
died at Wallingford Sept.
5th 1811 Aged 30 years

Daniel Holt,
Died
Dec. 20, 1806
AE. 78.

Mary his wife
Died Jan. 10, 1821.
AE. 90.

Sacred to the Memory
of Mrs. Abiah Holt
The Consort of Mr. Ben
jamin Holt who died
Oct. 31st 1793 in the 32d
year of her age With
A lively hope of a blessed Resur
rection

What age or sex can death defy
Mortals be wise prepare to die
Shall the delights of sences & time
Keep you from joys & bliss Devine.

Abigail
their Daughter
Died Sept. 19, 1826
AE. 65
There is rest in Heaven.

Charles E. Holt
Co I 20 Regi.
Conn Vols
Died 1874

In
Memory of
Mr.
Daniel Holt
Jun who died
July 15th A. D. 1802
in his 48th
year.

In
Memory of Mrs
Sally Hooker
Wife of Mr.
Seth Hooker
who died March
28th A. D. 1809
AE. 24 years.

Mrs
Elizabeth Hotchkiss
died June 19, 1833
AE. 80.

Ambrose Hotchkiss,
died Jan. 25, 1825.
AE. 58.

Lucretia
his wife
died Oct. 9.
AE. 73.

Amasa
their son
died Mar. 21, 1827.
AE. 20.

Sophronia Hotchkiss
Wife of
Henry C. Butler.
died April 17, 1841
Aged 34 years.

Dea
Ambrose Hough
born Sept. 2, 1754
died June 30, 1825
AE. 70.

Sally Bradley
Daughter of
Dr, Insign & Mercy
Hough
Died Aug. 11, 1864
AE. 85.

Lucy Hough.
Died Nov. 27, 1848
Aet. 51

In
Memory of
James A. Hough
who died
May 9, 1827
Aet. 37.

In Memory of
Mrs. Hannah wife to
Mr. Ephraim Hough
Who died Feb.
16th A. D. 1777
In the 61st
Year of her Age

In Memory of
Mr Ephraim Hough
Who died Feb. 16th.
A. D. 1781.
In the 62d
Year of his Age

In Memory of
Huldah Daughr of
Mr. Phinehas &
Mrs Huldah Hough
who died April 2nd
A. D. 1777
Aged 8 Months
Death is a debt
to nature due
Which I have paid
and so must you

John Merriam Consort to
the Relict of the late
Mr. Phinehas Hough Junr
hath Erected this Monument
to his Memory.
He died in the service of his
Country Aug. 1st A. D. 1776,
In the 31st Year of his Age.
And lies buried in the
Presbyterian Church Yard
at New York.
Who can grieve too much, what
time shall end
Our Mourning for so dear a friend.

In Memory of Mrs.
Lucy Hough
ye Consort of Mr.
James Hough, Who
Departed this Life Oct.
ye 5th A. D. 1775. Aged
34 years.

In
Memory
of
Sarah Merriam
formerly wife of
James A. Hough
Who died
Nov. 21, 1842
Aet. 75.

In Memory of
Dea.
James Hough
Who died
Sept. 14th A. D.
1794, AE. 51
The sweet memory
Of the Just,
Shall flourish when
They'r laid in dust.

Doctor
Insign Hough
died Dec. 3, 1813
Aged 67
Mercy
wife of
Insign Hough
died Feb. 6, 1820
Aged 72

In Memory of
Mrs Chloe Wife
of Doct Insign,
Hough Who died
June ye: 24th: 1771
in ye: 26th: Year of her
Age Daughter of Mr
Mapes & Mrs. Mary Yale.

In Memory of
Ira son of
Dr. Insign and
Mrs. Sarah
Hough
Who died July
27th A. D. 1777
In the 5th year
of his Age.

In Memory of
Rosetta
Daught of
Dr. Insign and
Mrs. Cloe
Hough
Who died Ma
rch 9th A. D. 1778
In the 8th year
of her age.

In Memory of
Mrs. Sarah Wife of
Dr. Insign Hough
Who died Jan. 11th
A. D. 1775
In the 31 year
of her age.
Life's Uncertain
Death is sure
Sin's the wound
And Christ the
cure.

Doctor
Isaac J. Hough
died Feb. 26, 1852
Aged 71

Hear Lies Interrd
Sacred to Memory the
Body of Dcn John Hou
gh Esq. Who in hopes
of a Glorious Resurrection
Departed this Life In Peace
Febr 24th A. D. 1788 In the
53d Year of his Age

les the not
How loved How Valued Once avai-
By Whome Related or By Whom begot
A heap of Dust Alone Remains of thee
Tis all thou art & All the Proud shall be.

In Memory of
John Hough Jun.
ye Son of Esq.
John & Mrs.
Lois Hough:
he Died Dec. ye
5th A. D. 1776 in
ye 10 year of
his Age.

In
Memory
of Mr.
Phinehas Hough
Who died Sept. 1th.
A. D. 1797
In the 85th
year of his age

In Memory of
Mrs Lucrecia
Hough Consort to
Mr. Levi Hough
Who died April 2d
A. D. 1797 in her
23d year

Death is a debt
To nature due
Which I have paid
& So must you

In Memory of Mrs.
Elizabeth the Consort
of Mr. Moses Hall
who departed this Life
June 23d, 1777
Aged 43 Years

Sudden death bespeaks
The human
thought
And cries prepare

In Memory of
Mrs. Mehetabel
Hough ye Consort
of Mr Saml Hough
Who died Dec.
ye 25th A. D. 1774
in ye 62nd year
of her Age.

In Memory of
Mr. Samuel Hough
Who Departed
this Life August ye
26th A. D. 1776 in
ye 66th year of
his Age.

Mortals Give Ear attend these faithful lines
The Lord of all the Weighty Truth enjoins
Love God, his will obey on Christ rely
Then sleep in Death —— abov' the sky.

Yale I Hough
died April 23d
1819, Aged
44 years

Ira Hough
died May 11th
1822 Aged
23 years.

Sacred
to the Memory
of Lucy Hough wife
of Yale I. Hough who
died Feb. 4th. A. D. 1807 AE.
28 years & 2 months.
The Children of Yale & Lucy
Hough. Minerva died
Nov. 22 A. D. 1803 AE. 1 year
& 11 months.
Daniel died Sept. 10th A. D.
1805 AE. 1 year & 11
months
Mary died Sept. 15th A. D.
1805 AE. 8 M.
Resurection chearing thought

In
Memory of
Aurilla
Wife of
John Hubbard,
Who Died
July 17, 1844.
Aged 49.

In Memory
of the Revd
John Hubbard A. M.
Pastor of the Church in
Meriden
Who died Nov. 18th 1786 Aet.
60. He was a rational
and serious Christian
Exemplary for Gravity Integrity
Piety and Benevolence. He was
an able Minister of the
New Testament and Beloved
By all his Flock For his Faithful
ness and apostolic Diligence In the
Work of the Ministry and for the
Prudence Kindness & Humanity
Which adorned his manners
and rendered him
a most excellent Pastor.

Mrs Mary Hubbard
relict of
the reverend John Hubbard
died 2d March 1806
having that day completed her 70th
year
An early Christian profession
was adorned by her living to Christ
With a rare tenderness of conscience
she kept in view the glory of God
in all the duties of her
relations and conditions
Remarking the providence which
numbereth the hairs of our heads
she improved by every incident.
The comforts of vital piety which she
sensibly enjoyed were subject to intervals
of extreme mental darkness
Light is sown for the righteous

Mrs.
Eunice, Wife of
John Hubbard
died March 25, 1837
Aged 39 years
in death
She was supported by a christian hope
Also James their son died
March 12, 1829 Aged 5
Months.

Erected to the
Memory of Mrs
Sarah Hull
wife of Mr.
Aaron Hull
who died Sept.
22d A. D. 1807 AE.
56 years.

In
Memory
of Mr.
Miles Hull
who died
April 24th
A. D. 1801,
in the 31th
year of his
Age.

In Memory
of
Deacon Isaac Hubbard
Who died July 5, 1806
in the 44th year of his age
The ornament of a meek
and quiet spirit
a conscience void of offence
and attention to the duties of
every relation
rendered him a general respect
Faith and hope
gave him victory over death
Mark the upright
His end is peace

Also of
Mrs Deborah
Wife of Mr.
Miles Hull
who died
Oct. 31st
A. D. 1802,
in the 26th
year of her
Age.

In
Memory of Isaac
Hubbard son of Deac.
Isaac & Mrs. Jane
Hubbard Who died Feb.
17th A. D. 1812 AE.
22 years
He was supported in
Death by a
christian hope

John Hubbard
Died
July 21, 1862.
AE. 70.

Amasa Ives
died Dec. 13
1817 Aged 73
Rebecca his wife
died at Sullivan (N. Y.)
Sept. 12, 1826
Aged 71.

Erected In memory of
Mr.
Cornelius Hull
who died at Jamaica
on Long Island in the
State of New York
Sept. 6th A. D. 1805 in
his 35th year
Also Mariah Daugh of
Cornelius & Susannah
Hull died Sept. 11th A. D.
1802 in her 2d.
year.

Erected to the Memory
of Capt. Bezaleel Ives
who died Nov. 24, 1798
Aged 72. In early Life he
became a follower of Jesus
& through Life supported
the character of a faithfull
friend a Kind husban and
an affectionate parent and
died in the lively hope of
future bliss. The Memory
of the Just is blessed.

In Memory of
Mrs. Hannah Ives
wife of Capt.
Bezaleel Ives
who died March 21st.
A. D. 1815 in her
84th year
Sure of endless joys possessing
Sin and death had lost their power
Future prospects rich in blessings
Cheered her last departing hour

John Ives
Born July 4, 1729.
Died Feb. 1816.
Father of Othniel, Titus,
and Ten Other Children.

In
Memory of Mr. Gideon
Ives Who died January 31
A. D .1777 In 57 Year of
His Age.

Marilla,
Wife of
Jesse Ives.
Died
Oct. 12, 1865,
AE. 85.

In
Memory of
Elias Y. Ives
who died Oct.
19, 1829, in his
24th.
year.

Erected in Memory
of Jerusha late
wife of Isaac Ives
of Danbury who died
of a consumption on the
18 day of August A. D. 1795
Aged 23 years.

In
Memory of
Jesse Ives
Who Died,
Feb. 12, 1836.
Aged 61.

Hear Lies Interrd Sa-
cred to Memory the Body
of Mrs Mary Ives the late
Amiable & Virtuous Con
sort to Mr John Ives
she Closed her Eyes in death
Febry ye 15th A. D. 1788 In
The 46th Year of her Age

Why do we mourn Departing friends
Or shake at Death's alarms
Tis but the Voice that Jesus sends
To Call them to his Arms.

Titus Ives Esq.
died March 12 1834
Aet 50.

Watch thee therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come
Matt. XXIV. 12.

In Memory of
Rosetta Ives
Wife of Dea.
Othniel Ives
Who died March
3d 1833 Aged
36 years.

In
Memory of
Mr.
Timothy Ives
who died Jan. 10th.
A. D. 1812 AE.
L X X X.
years

The strong know that they must die
Beneath the clods there dust must lie
They'll have no share in all thats done
Beneath the circle of the sun.

Sarah Ives
Wife of Mr.
Othnial Ives
died Nov. 24, A. D. 1814
Aet. 32 y'rs
Also an infant Aet. 4 days

May we who survive consider
that no age is exempt from death
Our Life is ever on the wing
And death is ever nigh
The moment when our lives begin
Ye all begin to die.

Erected to the
memory of
Dea.
Othniel Ives
Who died
Nov. 22, 1829
aged 52.

Susan L.
daughter of Titus &
Lodema Ives
died June 14, 1833
aged 12 years

Go home my friends dry up your tears
Here I must lie till Christ appears.

In Memory of
Capt. Samuel Ives
who died Oct. 18th 1803
AE. 52

Universally Lamented as an active
friend to Christianity and public
Good & in the comfortable hope &
prospect of immortal blessedness
beyond the grave.

Thy Powr alone, O faith can death deform
Break all his Darts and all his fierce
ness charm

In
Memory of
Cornelia Wife of
Elias Y. Ives.
who died Nov.
21, 1827, Aet.
19 years
7 Months and
20 days

A blooming flower thus early cut
down in the morning of usefulness
is a lesson to her associates
Be ye also ready.

In
Memory of Mr.
Aaron Johnson
Who died Sept.
2d A. D. 1808 in
his 40th year
In the comfortable
hope of eternal
Life.

Sacred to the
Memory of
Aaron Johnson
son of Aaron and
Rebecca Johnson
who died Oct. 7,
A. D. 1826 AE.
18 years

Remember now thy Creator
in the days of thy youth
This monument is erected
by his two youngest Sisters.

In
Memory of Mr.
Israel Johnson.
Who died March 21, A. D.
1820, in his 72d
year.

Take comfort christians when your
friends
In Jesus fall asleep
Their better being never ends
Then why dejected weep.

Huldah
Wife of
Israel Johnson,
Died
Jan. 10, 1850,
AE. 96.

Sacred
to the Memory of
Francis King Esq.
Who died
May 11, 1837:
Aged 40 years.

In
Memory of
John O Lane
who Died
May 9, 1833
AE. 26.

In Memory of
Mr.
Samuel Leavitt
He died
Dec. 30th. A. D. 1803
AE. XCIII
years.

In Memory of
Mrs
Adah Leavitt
Consort of Mr.
Samuel Leavitt
she died Feb. 9th
A. D. 1801 AE.
LXXIX

Silas B. Lawrence.
Died
Aug. 4, 1852,
AE. 72.

Old age and death retard our steps
From all our youthful toils

Erected to the
memory of
Wm. Henry Lester
who died
April 25, 1837
Aged 27 years.

William A. Linsley
died Oct. 7th 1841
Aged 66 years
"My flesh also shall rest in hope"

Abigail T.
wife of
William A. Linsley
died Feb. 2, 1820
Aged 35 years
"I shall be satisfied when I awake
with thy likeness."

William
Son of
Wm. A. & A. T. Linsley.
died Nov. 13, 1812, AE. 11 m. 14 d.
Harriet A.
their daughter
died May 5, 1812, AE. 3 y's 7 mo
"Hope looks beyond the bounds of time
When what we now deplore
Shall rise in full immortal prime
And bloom to fade no more."

Harriet
wife of
William A. Linsley
died May 24, 1841,
Aged 52 years.
"When he shall appear we shall be
like him for we shall see him as he is."

Anna Lyman
Died
April 8 1858
AE. 70

In Memory of
Mr. Aaron Lyman
Esq. Who departed
this life nov. 15th A. D.
1801 AE. 94

The public offices he sustained
he discharged with honor
he was a patron of good
order and a friend to religion
he manifested a lively sense
of the worth of religion
and died in the full hope
of coming to the resur-
rection of the Just.

In Memory of
Mr.
Phinehas Lyman
who died April 16 A. D.
1825 aged 71 years
and of Mrs.
Huldah Lyman
his wife who died
March 16, 1804
aged 46 years.

J. W. L.
John W. Lyon,
born at Meriden
Feb. 5, 1821.
died at
Springfield Mass.
Sept. 26, 1842.

Ruth Maria
Daughter of
Asahel & Elizabeth
Merriam
died Dec 3 1843
Aged 31 years

Anson Merriam
Died
Oct. 14, 1833
AE. 29
Our
Fathers Grave.
James E. Merriam
William B Merriam

In
Memory of
Asaph Merriam Esq.
Who died July 27th
1836 aged 77
years

In
Memory of Mrs.
Damaras Wife of
Asaph Merriam Esq.
who died Aug. 24
1828 in her 63
year.

Weeping friends
Erected this to
perpetuate the mem-
ory of Selden son
of Asaph Merriam
Esq & Mrs
Damaras Merriam
Who died
April 28th A. D. 1806
in his 22d.
year.

In Memory of
Mr.
Benjamin Merriam
Who died suddenly
the 14th of Feb. A. D.
1807 AE. 76 years.
Blessed are the dead that
die in the Lord.
May sudden death remind us
all
That old or young Death soon
may call.

In Memory of
Mr. Edmund
Merriam
died Jan. 25th
A. D. 1791 AE. 30
Death is a debt
To nature due
That I have paid
& so must you.

In Memory of Mrs.
Mary ye Wife of
Mr. Benjamin
Merriam she Died
March ye 14th 1772
in ye 30th year of
her Age.

Mrs. Beulah
Wife of Mr.
Ephraim Merriam
died Feb. 18th.
1827 in her
68th year.

In Memory of Mrs.
Mary Merriam
ye Consort of Mr.
Elisha Merriam Who
Departed this life
Nov. ye 15th A. D. 1774 in ye 20th
year of her Age.
A soul prepared needs no delays
The summons come, the saint obeys
Swift was her flight, and short the road
She closed her eyes and saw her God;
The flesh rests here till Jesus come
And claims the treasure from the tomb.

In Memory of
Mr. John Merri
am Who Died
May 26, 1772 in
ye 75 year of his
Age
Let not the dead
forgotten lie
Remember Friends
that you must die.

In Memory of Mrs
Mary Merriam 2d.
Consort of Mr John
Merriam Who died
Decemb 6th 1756 in
ye 56th year of her
Age. as I am now so
must you be (indecipherable).

Mr.
Ephraim Merriam
died March
22d A. D. 1834
Aet. 77.

Erected In memory
of Mr.
Joseph Merriam
who died April 30th.
A. D. 1807 in his
75th year.
Behold and see as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I are now so you must be
Therefore prepare to follow me

Erected In memory of
Mr.
Nathaniel Merriam
Who was born at
Merriden Jan. 16th.
A. D. 1734
His terrestrial course was
suddenly terminated
August 5th A. D.
1807

In Memory of
Mrs. Mary Merriam,
Wife of Mr. Marshel
Merriam Who Died
February ye 20th A. D .1780
in the 30th year of
her Age
She gave to her friends cause
of great consolation
And died in good hopes
of eternal salvation

Sacred to the
memory of Mrs
Mindwell
wife of
Joseph Merriam
who died Oct. 15
1839, in her 100 yr
The memory of the just is blessed

In Memory of
Capt. Nathel Merriam
Who died ——
A. D. 1775 ———
81st year of ——

In Memory of
Mrs Martha
Consort to Mr.
Nathaniel
Merriam Who
died Dec. 28th.
A. D. 1797 AE. 61.

Calm resignation cro-
wn'd
Her latest hours.

In
Memory
of Mr.
Thomas Merriam
who died
April 1st. A. D. 1811
in his
80th year.
Mrs
Ruth Merriam
Wife of Mr.
Thomas Merriam
died April 6
1827, in her 87th
year.

In Memory of Lieut
William Merri
am. He died Octr
ye 4th A. D. 1751 In
The 52 Year of
His Age

Likewise the Rema
ins of his wife Mrs
Ruth Merriam.
she died Novr ye 4
A. D. 1784 In ye 81
Year of her Age.

In Memory of
Mr.
Howel Merriman
He died Oct. 29th.
A. D. 1805 in the
33d year of
his age
He was much respected
in Life & equally
lamented in
Death.

In
Memory of
Dinah Merriman
Relict of
Titus Merriman
who died Sept. 1st.
A. D. 1813 in her
85th year.

Mr. Ives Merriman
died Oct. 3,
A. D. 1825,
Aet. 33
His domestic virtues endeared
him to a large circle of relatives
& friends & his christian walk &
humble hope in death left them
the best consolation in his loss.

Mrs
Polly Merriman
Wife of Mr.
Jessa Merriman died Aug.
13 A. D. 1808 Aet. 42 y.
and Mr. Joel Merriman
died much lamented Oct. 18, 1819
Aet. 35 y. in the midst of flatering
worldly prospects and yet with
becoming resignation & comfortable
hopes of eternal Life.
Our life is like a summers day
It seems so quickly past:
Youth is the morning bright & gay
And if tis spent in wisdoms way
We meet our doom without dismay
And Death is sweet at last
Here all is rest & sweet repose
Here all our sorrows cease
For Jesus needs our spirit there
And kindly whispers peace.

In memory of
Mr.
Titus Merriman
who died
Dec. 24th A. D. 1806
AE. 80 years.
Tho' strict in his Christian
walk for many years he
was much distressed in his
sickness thro' anxious
fears for his soul, but died
at last full of joy & triumph,
If the righteous scarcely
be saved where shall the
ungodly & the sinner ap
pear.
I Peter IV. 18.

In
Memory of Mr.
Jesse Merriman
who died May
8, 1827, aged
68 years

Mrs
Mary Roberts
wife of
Ephraim Merriam
died July 7, 1816
Aet. 23

In
Memory of Mr.
Jotham Mitchel,
who died Nov. 2, 1825
Aged 71 years 7 months &
1 day
In Life respected &
In death lamented

Also in memory of Betsey
daut^r of Jotham & Rebekah
Mitchel, she died the 26 Nov.
1784 AE. 13 months & 8 d's.

In Memory of
Mrs Mary Mitchel
Consort to Mr Moses
Mitchel. she died
May the 14th A. D. 1776
In the 52nd year of her
Age.

In Memory of
Miss
Mary Mitchel
Who died March
12th A. D. 1806 in her
49th year. Live while
you live that when grim
Death approaches the re-
collection of your past life
may force a smile even
from that formidable
tyrant

In Memory of
Mr.
Moses Mitchel
Who died Nov.
7th A. D. 1797 AE. 75

Forbear to mourn for me my
friends
But for your sins and follies
mourn
Short is the time on earth
you spend
& then to dust return.

Sacred
To the Memory of
Sarah
Wife of Zanak Murdock
& Daughter of
Levi & Sarah Foster
Who
Died March 26, 1836
Aet. 28.

So near, so kind, so gentle, so sincere
So lov'd so early lost must claim a tear
Yet mourn we not if the life resumed by
heaven
Was spent to every end for which twas
given

As humble trust in thy Redeemers love
Matured thee early for the courts above
We cease thy death too fondly to deplore
For naught could the longest life have
added more

In Memory of
Mr.
Joel Mix
who died Dec. 7th.
A. D. 1813 AE.
27 years

My weeping friends as you pass by
Remember you are born to die.

In
Memory of
Lucy Moran
Who died
June 1, 1846
in the 68 year
of her age

Here lies deposited untill the
resurrection the body of Mr.
Moses Mitchel Son of Mr. Joth-
am & Mrs. Rebekah Mitchel, he
departed this life July 4, A. D.
1811: in the 25 year of his age.

at his left hand lies the body
of Mr. Aaron Mitchel Son of Mr.
Jotham & Mrs Rebekah Mitchel,
he departed this life June 11,
A. D. 1811: in the 18 year of
his age

Thy earthly hopes fond youth are but a
dream
Ore all things here I claim a power
supreme
While love prepares the nuptial torch to light
I quench its splendors in sepulchral night:
My name is death; see here my victims lie,
Renounce thy pleasures & prepare to die

In
Memory of Mrs.
Eunice Miles
Formerly the Consort
of Lieut. Josiah
Robinson
died July 26th
A. D. 1787 Aged 61.
If bright the prospect
We the Grave defy
Trust future Ages
And contented die

Henry
Son of
Amos & Hannah
Newton
died
Feb. 3, 1839.
AE. 22.

John C.
Son of
Amos & Hannah
Newton
Died
Oct. 20, 1841
Aet. 20.

Our friend and brother lo! is dead
The cold and lifeless clay,
Has made in dust its silent bed.
And there it must decay.

In
Memory of
Nancy
Late Wife of
Andrew Norton
& Formerly wife of
John Hough
who Died
Sept. 1, 1839
Aet. 53.

E. H. O.
In
Memory of Mrs
Eunice H. Olds
Wife of Mr.
Jared Olds
Who died April 18th
A. D. 1843 AE.
28 years

Each friend by fate snatched from us is a plume plucked from the wings of human vanity & from their grave how soon we disingage.

Samuel Paddock
Died
Aug. 7, 1869
AE. 85.

In Memory of
Mr.
Samuel Paddock
who died Nov.
21, 1825 in the
68th year of
his age.

In
Memory of
Mehitabel
Wife of
Samuel Paddock
Who departed this life
July 1, 1817
AE. 59.

This is a debt all natures due
Which I have paid & so must you.

Charlotte
Wife of
Samuel Paddock
Died
May 31, 1864,
AE. 67.

In Memory of Mrs.
Temperance
Parmelee Consort to
Mr. Bani Parmelee
who died Oct. 5th
A. D. 1797 in her 42d
year.

Death is a debt
To nature due
Which I have paid
& so must you.

Susanna Peck
relict of
Deacon Phineas Peck
& formerly consort of
Stephen Hine
died Nov. 22, 1810
Aged 74

Death like an overflowing stream
Bears all its sons away
They fly forgotten as a dream
Does at the opening day.

In Memory of
Mrs. Hannah
Wife of
Mr. Nathaniel
Penfield Who
died June 5th.
1777 in the 72d
Year of her age

In Memory of
Mrs. Sarah, wife of
Mr. Liberty Perkins
Who died June 3, 1825
Aet. 44 Y.
Huldah their daugh.
died Aug. 20, 1802 AE. 4 Y.
Hiram & Elias their
Sons died March 31, 1801
AE. 4 Y. & April 20, 1807
AE. 1 Y.

Amanda
wife of
Sherlock Perkins
Died
Dec 22 1842
Aet. 42

Polly
Wife of
Samuel Paddock
Died
Oct. 26, 1822
AE. 41

In Memory of Mr.
Nathaniel Penfield
Who died January
the 5th A. D. 1776
Aged 679 Years
Corrected date—probably 79 years.

The grave of Mrs.
Elizabeth wife
of Mr.
Seth D. Plum
who died June 4th
1826 in her
45th year.
Death is certain and may you all
prepare to meet your God.

In
Memory of Mr.
Seth D. Plum
who died May 16,
1836. Aged 57
Years.

In
Memory of
Russel Harrison Plum
son of Mr. Seth D. & Mrs.
ElizabethPlum
Who died Jan. 22d A. D.
1816. AE. 2 years &
7 Months

Beneath, the lovely Child doth lie
To earth his boddy's lent,
More glorious shall hereafter rise
Yet not more innocent
sound
When the archangels trump shall
& souls to bodies join
Millions & millions here around
Will wish their lives as short as
mine.

In
Memory of
Jehiel Preston
Who died
Aug. 11, 1820.
aged 65 years
Also Permelia
daughter of
Jehiel &
Molly Preston
died
(illegible)

In
Memory of
Molly, relict of
Jehiel Preston.
Who died
June 15, 1833.
Aged 74 years.

The grave is now an honor'd spot
To saints who sleep in Jesus bless'd
For there the wicked trouble not
And there the weary are at rest.

Ann Eliza
Wife of
Freeman R. Randall
Died
Apr. 7, 1857
AE. 18 y's & 8 mo's.

We have loved her. Oh how fondly,
We have laid her down to rest:
She has gone to dwell with Angels,
In the mansions of the blest.
She was lovely far too lovely
In this cold world to stay
Her spirit pure and holy
To Heaven winged its way.

In
Memory of
Mrs. Ann
the wife of
Augustus Redfield
Who died
July 4, 1844,
in her 75 year.

Horace R. Redfield
Died
Dec. 31, 1851
AE. 58
Lucy Curtis
His Wife
Died Mar. 1, 1882
AE. 82.

In Memory of Lieut.
Allin Rice
Who departed this Life
May ye 2d A. D. 1776
Aged 40 years

I trust in Thee and know in Whom I trust,
Thy call I follow to the land unknown.

In Memory of
Mrs Phebe
Wife of Deaⁿ
Benjamin Rice
Who died June
ye 13th 1776 in
the 46th Year
of her Age.

Erected to
Memory
of Mr.
Amasa Rice
Who departed
this Life
Dec. 12th A. D.
1797 in the
47th year
of his Age

Also of
Miss Thankful
Rice Daugh.
of Mr.
Amasa &
Mrs. Mary
Rice Who
died Feb. 19th.
A. D. 1794 in
the 21th year
of her Age.

In Memory of
Deaⁿ Benjamin
Rice Who died
February ye 7th
1777 in the 47th
Year of his
Age.

In Memory of
Mrs Mindwell
Wife of Decon
Benjamin Rice
Who died May
ye 13th 1776 in
the 74th Year
of her Age.

In memory of Capt.
Ezekiel Rice who
died Sept. 3d 1808
Aged 69 years

The race is run in dutys path
Fought the good fight & kept the faith breast
Now leaning on my Saviours
My spirit seeks its final rest.

In Memory of
Mr. Halsey son
of Dea. Benjamin &
Mrs. Phebe Rice
Who died May 2d
A. D. 1786 in the
22d Year of his
Age

Thrice happy if
Prepared to meet
A change so awful
& so great.

In Memory of Mr.
Joseph Rice: he
Departed this Life June
ye 5th A. D. 1777 in
ye 22nd Year of his
Age

See bloming youth
My mournfull fate
Prepare for death

In Memory of
Jemima Rice
daughter of Mr. Ezra
& Mrs. Anna Rice
Who died Jan. 23d.
1793, in the 20th
year of her age.

Time what an empty vapour tis
And days how swift they are
Swift as a featherd arrow flies
Or like a shooting star.

Erected. In memory of
Rachel dautr of Titus & Rachel
Rice. She perished in the flames of
a dwelling house occupyed by
Jotham Mitchel Oct. 28, 1784;
in the 9 Year of her age

Melinda
wife of
Reuben J. Rice
Died
May 1, 1833.
AE. 22.
Prepare to meet thy God.

In
Memory of
Charlott Rice
daughter of Joel &
Eunice Rice, who
died Aug 18, A. D. 1829
Aet. 40

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

In Memory of Mrs
Mindwell Rice consort
to Mr. Lyman Rice
who died April 14th
1805 in the 23d year
of her age

Youth in the blossom must resign
to Death the end of all mankind
But hark the Gospel doth proclaim
The dead in Christ shall rise again

In Memory of
Mr.
Oliver Rice
who died
April 28th A. D.
1794, AE. 34.
In faith he died,
In dust he lies
But faith forsees

In Memory of
Mrs. Ruth Royce
Who died March 30th A. D. 1801.
in the 25th year of her age
With joyful hopes of future bliss

Behold the saints rejoice to die,
For heaven shines round their heads
And angel guards prepar'd to fly;
Attend their fainting beds.

In
Memory of
Jane Daugh. of
Dean Silas & Mrs.
Rebeckah Rice
who died Feb. 13 A. D.
1824 in her 19 year

Lifes uncertain death is sure
Sin's the wound & Christ
the cure.

Rev
Erastus Ripley
Pastor Of The
Congregational Church
In Meriden
20 years
Died Nov 17 1843
Aet. 73

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth yea saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

In Memory of Lieut.
Josiah Robinson he
died April 17th 1771
in ye 45th yea of his
Age. Death ore all
nature casts a shady
Gloom. Believe & look
With triumph ore
ye tomb

In Memory of
Sarah Russell
Who died April 14
1833 in her 20th year.

When blooming youth are torn away
By deaths resistless hand
Our hearts the mournful tribute pay
Which pitty must demand.

In Memory of
Mr.
Elijah Scovill
Who died
March 18th A. D.
1798 in his 24th year

Death is a debt
To nature due
Which I have paid
& so must you.

Elizabeth
wife of
Eleazar Scovil,
died July 24, 1849
Aet. 66.

Erected
In Memory of
Mrs.
Tryphena Selby
the amiable Consort of Mr.
David M. Selby
who departed
this Life May 2d A. D.
1804 aged 43
years

Confined within this narrow tomb
The lovely sleeper lies
But when the grand Morn shall come
May she with joy arise.

Mrs
Electa Seymour
wife of Mr.
Stephen Seymour
died Jan. 4, 1820 in her
32d year
Daniel their son died Oct.
23d 1808 in infancy
AE. 1 y. 11 m. 18 d.
Phebe Ann their Daugh.
died Oct. 13, 1818 AE. 3 y. 3m.
& 14 d.

Sacred to the Memory of
Mrs Rachel Shaylor
Consort to Maj.
Joseph Shaylor
Who died Nov. 18th
A. D. 1790 AE. 41

God gives us friends
Then why should we
complain
If he resume
Our friends again

In Memory of
Mr Joseph Shaylor
the only son of
Maj. Joseph & Mrs
Rachel Shaylor who was slain by the
Indians at Fort Jefferson Feb 11 A. D. 1792
AE. 15
His Surviving Sisters Consecrate
this Inscription to his Memory

In Memory of
Mr. James Scovil Jun^{r}
Who departed this Life
June the 1st 1776
Aged 43 Years
In the midst of Life we are in Death

In Memory of Miss
Thankfull Sheldon
Daug^{tr} of M^{r} Asa and
M^{rs} Thankfull
Sheldon of New
Malborough She
Died June y^{e} 9th 1772
in y^{e} 18th year of her Age
Come Blooming Youth
When This You Read
O See My Fate.

In Memory of Abigail
Silliman: y^{e} Daughter
of Mr Hezekiah & Mrs
Emilia Silliman: she Died
May y^{e} 31st A. D. 1776 in y^{e}
8th year of her Age
Why are friends ravished from
us: Tis to bind
By soft affections lines on human
hearts the thought of death

Erected to the Memory
of Mrs. Mary Simpson
Wife of Mr. Samuel
Simpson Who died
April 2nd A. D. 1799 AE.
34 years. Also their
babe died 1799.
Heaven gives friends
Why should we complain
If heaven resumes
Our friends again.

In
Memory of
Solomon Smith
Who
Died Sept. 1, 1844
Aet. 76.

In memory of
Mrs. Eunice
wife of Mr.
Robert Smith
who died
Feb. 2^{d}, 1837
Aged 69 years.

In
Memory of
Lucy, wife of
Solomon Smith
who died
June 13 1831
Aged 63

In Memory of
Orrin Smith
son of Darling &
Rachel Stuart
Who died Jan 2
1821 Aged 18
years

Temperance, Fortitude, Justice.
I. O. R.
Emery B. Sherman
Died July 10, 1846
Aet. 21
"We will drink no wine; for,
Jonadah, the son of Rechah, our
Father, commanded us saying
Ye shall drink no wine."

Sarah
wife of
William Talmadge
died Jan 21 1843
AE. 28

Sarah
wife of
Daniel Talmage,
Died
Aug. 24, 1855,
AE. 79.

Mr Abner & Mrs.
SarahTibbals died
Wallingford Oct. 6, 1801-1799
AE. 75-80.

Mrs. Lois & Mrs. Chloe
Companions of Mr. Samuel
Tibbals died Oct. 16, 1803. Feb
1, 1820. The former at Branford
AE. 36—42
Also two infant sons of Mr.
Samuel & Mrs Chloe
died Oct. 21, 1805.
Dec. 21, 1815

Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord
even so saith the spirit for they rest
from their labors

Sacred to the
Memory of Mr.
Samuel Tibbals
Who died July 14
1829 Aet. 64.

Sacred to the Memory
of Mrs. Polly Consort to
Mr Caleb Todd
Who departed this Life
March 10th A. D. 1792 in the
25th year of her Age

Here my dear Polly lies
Obscur'd in the dust
Thus all but virtue dies
Whose memory cannot rust.

There Shall Be No More Death

Mary Elizabeth
Wife of
Lauren Tuttle
died Feb. 26, 1843
AE. 26 y's

"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints."
P's C.X.VI. 15.

In Memory of
Philomela Twiss
late Consort of Mr
Daniel Twiss
she suddenly departed
this life March
6th A. D. 1805, in the
36th year of her age

also Champion
son of Daniel &
Philomela Twiss
died May 6th 1800
AE. 6 Months

Though sudden gone
yet still in mind.

Erected
to the Memory of
Joseph Twiss
Who Died
May 15, 1842
Aet. 81

Lois C.
Daughter of
Austin & Vincey Twiss
Died Dec. 24, 1842.
Aged 19 Years

Friends nor physicians could not save
My mortal body from the grave
Nor can the grave confine me here
When Christ my Saviour doth appear.

Bolivar A.
Son of
Austin & Vincey Twiss
Died March 25, 1844
Aet. 18.
Abigail Twiss
Daugh. of Mr
Joseph & Mrs
Lois Twiss
died June 2, 1819,
Aet. 24 yrs.

Great God thy goodness hath no bounds
We hope our friend hath mercy found
Her mind o'ercast with dismal gloom
Has sought a refuge in the tomb
Darkness & gloom shall flee away
At the great opening day.

Lois Austin
Wife of
Joseph Tiss
Died Jan 31, 1848
Aet. 85.

In Memory of
Joshua A. Twiss
who died May
29, 1829, Aet.
26

This world is all a fleeting show
For man's probation given:
The smiles of joy the tears of wo,
Deceitful shine deceitful flow:
Theres nothing true but heaven.

In Memory of
Mr. Hiram Upson
who died Sept. 22, 1836
Aged 33 years.
And of Mrs. Silvia
his wife who died Oct.
26, 1833 Aged 29 years
Also Sophronia their
daugh. died Sept. 22, 1833
Aged 10 weeks.

Erected
to the Memory
of
Charles Way
Who Died
Dec. 4, 1842
Aet. 36.

In
Memory of
Betsey, wife of
Samuel Way
who died
May 2, 1831
Aged 50 years
Also
Sherman their son
died May 30, 1811
Aged 2 years
Also
an infant son
died Sept. 3, 1818.

Abner Way
Died
May 1, 1841.
Aged 88
Eunice Way
Died
Aug. 15, 1851
Aged 90.

John A Way
Died
Oct. 5, 1848.
AE. 70
Deborah
Wife of
John A. Way,
Died Apr. 6, 1850
AE. 70

Samuel Way
Died
Oct. 27, 1844
AE. 83.
In
Memory of
Sherman P. Way
who died
Apr. 8, 1840
AE. 28
The memory of the just is blessed.

In
Memory of Mrs
Esther Webb
wife of Capt.
John Webb
who died March
25th A. D. 1806
AE. 94 years.

Erected to the memory
of Capt John Webb who
died May 6, 1799 aged
92
He was a Man of real piety
and Integrity Public spirit-
ed, kind to the poor. And
through Life a patron of
Religion peace & order
in Society
The Memory of the just is
blessed.

In Memory of
Anna Wetmore,
wife of the late Revd
Izrahiah Wetmore
of Trumbull
Who died July 6th 1812,
AE. 70 years

How blest the pair whom christian love unites
Joy smiles upon their days and crowns their nights
In peace their happy moments glide away
Till both are welcomed to eternal day.

In Memory of
Deacn Benjamln
Whiting he died
Octbr ye 2nd 1773 in
ye 79th year of his Age
The sweet Remembrance
of the Just, When dying
Nature sleeps in Dust.

In Memory of
Mrs. Rebekah
Relict of Dea
Benjamin Whiting
Who died July 6th
A. D. 1790 AE. 91
Behold all ye
Who do pass by
If you live long
Yet you must die.

Erected in Memory
of Samuel Whiting
Esqr. Who died Feb. 15th
A. D. 1803 in his 60th year

In the various offices of trust which he sustained he ever supported the character of a respectable member of society—A just and faithful magistrate—A kind husband—an affectionate parent—A friend and supporter of religion & morality—and a humble, pious & exemplary christian & died in the lively hope of future bliss, through the merits of a Saviour.

In Memory of
Caleb Wilcox
who died
Sept. 19, 1826
AE. 57.

His death was ocasioned by a sudden and unexpected fall which he received ten days previous to his death.
Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

In Memory of
Mr.
Amos White
who died Aug.
21, 1825 Aged
80 years

In Memory of
Mrs. Hannah D. Wolf
Wife of
Mr. Seth D. Wolf
who departed this Life
March 11th 1791 in the
27th Year of her Age

Virtue & grace adorn'd her mind
Her thoughts & passions were resign'd
Her innocence so fair so clear
Who can restrain a falling tear.

Mr.
Ichabod Wood,
Died
Dec. 10, 1842,
Aged 65 Years.
Mrs. Mary
Wife of Mr.
Ichabod Wood
died May 2, 1835
Aged 53 years

Come all my children that survive
And let us mourn together

In
Memory of
Asa Yale
who died
1829
Aged 30

Abel Yale
Died
Sept. 23, 1859
Aged 75.

Mrs
Polly Wife of
Abel Yale
Died
Aug. 15, 1840 in her
49 year

Dearest Sister thou hast lost us
Here thy loss we deeply feel
But tis God that hath bereft us
He can all our sorrows heal

In Memory of Mr. Abel
Yale: Departed this Life
April 8th 1784 in the 78th
year of his Age

The seens are changed, our days are fled
All earth born joys are o'er
Mortals must follow where we're lead
And reach the Eternal shore.

Erected to the Memory
of
Mrs. Sarah Yale,
the Consort of
Mr. Able Yale
She departed this life
Decr. 20th A. D. 1800, in the
89th year of her Age.

Mr. Daniel Yale
died March 28, 1834
in his 84th year

Deceased friends to you I come
To rest my body in the tomb
My soul with you shall rise above
To shout & sing redeeming love

Mrs Phebe Yale
his wife
died Nov. 17, 1835
in her 80 year.

James M. Yale
Died
July 30, 1842
in his 23 year

Fond clustering hopes have sunk with thee
That earth cannot restore
Love casts a garland on thy turf
That may not blossom more.

In
Memory of
Ira Yale
Who departed this life
Dec. 9, 1814
AE. 56.

Also his wife
Betsey
Who departed this life
April 5, 1811,
AE. 27

and Also Mehitable,
Who departed this life
Dec. 6, 1814.
AE. 28.

Isaac Yale
Died
Aug. 16
1864
AE. 81.

Diana Yale
His Wife
Died
Apr. 15 1862
AE. 79.

In
Memory of
Eli Yale
Who died
June 15, 1843,
in the 32 year
of his age

Our life how short a groan a sigh
We live and then begin to die
But oh how great a mercy this
That deaths a portal into bliss

In
Memory of
Anna daughter of
Isaac & Diana Yale
who died Dec. 23, 1829
Aged 22
She died in the full faith of her Redeemer

In
Memory of
Mr.
Joel Yale
Who died Dec. 14th.
A. D. 1805, in his
47th year.

Farewell my earthly friends adieu
Vain would I bid farewell to you
Now in the dust my head I lay
To mingle with my native clay
While my immortal soul has fled
To meet the Judge of quick & dead
You too must moulder in the
tomb
Prepare to meet your final
doom

Esther
Wife of
Joel Yale,
died Nov. 13, 1848
Aet. 82.

Here lies interred
sacred to the Memory
the body of
John Yale
who died Jan 6 1782
AE. 95

Here lies interred sacred
to the Memory the body
of Mr. John Yale Jun.
Who departed this life,
in the faith & hope of
the Gospel on the 28 day
of March A .D. 1795. In the
65 year of his Age.

Death is a debt to nature due
Let not the dead forgotten lie
Remember that your born to die

In Memory of Mrs.
Sarah Wife of Mr.
John Yale Who
died July 2nd 1774
in ye 84th year
of her Age.

In
Memory of Mrs
Eunice Consort of Mr.
John Yale late
Consort to Capt.
John Couch, Who
died March 5th A. D.
1800 AE. 71 years

Surviving friends altho you mourn
Let this console I shall return
The righteous Judge can by his word
Bring me triumphing with the Lord.

Mr.
John Yale
died
Aug. 8, 1833
AE. 76

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
Rev. xiv. 13.

Betsey
Wife of
John Yale

Ann Yale
Daughter of
John &
Betsey Yale
Died
Dec. 21, 1828
AE. 21

The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust.

Mr.
Jonathan Yale
died Feb. 3d 1832
in the 39th. year
of his age

Partner & friends a long farewell
Oh be prepared with God to dwell.

Sacred
to the Memory of
Mr.
Jonathan Yale
Who died Nov. 23
1823 in his 77 year

His exemplary Life was a testi
mony to the power of excellence
of that religion which he early
professed & his death an evidence
of those consolations & hope
which it can alone inspire.

In Memory of
Esther wid. of
Jonathan Yale
who died Oct. 12, 1825.
Aet. 74

She honoured a christian profession
by a pious life & liberality toward
the poor and the church of Christ.

In
Memory of Mrs.
Polly
Wife of Mr.
Levi Yale
Daugh. of Joel &
Esther Yale who
died July 13th A. D.
1810 AE. 20 years.

In Memory of
Mr Levi Yale
he died Novbr
17th 1772 in ye
28th year of
his Age.

In Memory of
Mary Yale
Who died
Nov. 21, 1837
Aged 27 years

Miss
Esther Yale
died Aug. 24 A. D.
1825 Aet.
24.

In
Memory of
Deac. Nathaniel Yale
who departed this life
Dec. 12, 1814
AE. 62

The grave is honor'd where
the Christian lies
Beyond the Skies Immortality

In
Memory of Mrs.
Anna Yale
wife of Mr. Noah
Yale died Sept.
8th 1809 in
her 84th years

In
Memory of
Hannah
Wife of
Dea. Nathaniel Yale
Who died
Feb. 28, 1847
AE. 86.

In Memory of
Rebekah Daugtr
of Mr. Noah &
Mrs. Anna Yale
She died Novbr
15th 1773 in ye 6th
Year of her Age.

In
Memory
of Mr.
Noah Yale
Who died Feb. 27th.
A. D. 1803 in his
80th year

Tho long you live & many
good days see
Yet to the grave you all
must follow me
From dust thou art & must
to dust return
In silent language speaks each
mouldering urn

In Memory of
Mr. Russel Yale,
Who died April 28th.
A. D. 1794. In the 19th.
year of his Age

Behold vain youth as you pass by
And think how suden you may di,
Come view my grave & read my age
Prepare for death while on the stage.

In Memory of Mr.
Samuel Yale
who died Sept. 18th A. D.
1810 AE. 48 years

Also in Memory of Mrs.
Mahitabel wife of Mr.
Samuel Yale who died
Nov. 19th A. D. 1808 AE. 28 years.

Erected
In Memory of
Mrs.
Eunice Yale
Late Consort of Mr.
Samuel Yale
who died Aug.
18th A. D. 1804
in her 44th.
year

My husband dear & children all
Forget me not tho I am gone
The way of truth dont you des
pise
& Heavenly joys shall be the
prise.

Our Father and Mother
William Yale
Died Jan. 23, 1833
AE. 49
Mary Yale
Died Apr. 1, 1854
AE. 69.

Susan Silence
Wife of
Samuel H. Yale
Died
June 8 1847
Aged 26 yrs

In
Memory of
Selden D. Yale,
Who died
in the City of N. York.
March 17, 1836,
Aged 19 years.

Thus while the dew of his youth was so fresh upon him, he was summoned from the midst of a large circle of affectionate relations and friends. But he died in the full hope of a blessed immortality.

As sets the morning star—which goes not down behind the darkened west, nor hides obscured among the tempests of the sky. But melts away into the sight of heaven.

This
monument is erected
to perpetuate
the memory of
Silas S. Yale
by his affectionate
Brother Levi
who departed this Life
June 30, 1811
AE. 26.

In Memory of
Mr. John Yeamans
who died Jan 1st.
1835 in his 81st.
year

and of Mrs
Eunice
his wife who died
Feb. 5, 1835 in her
76 year.

In Memory of
Mrs. Selina
Wife of Mr.
John Yeamans
Jr. who died Oct.
11, 1820 Aet. 28
Also Eunice their
Daugh. died Feb. 16
1817 Aet. 4 m. &
21 days.

Caroline
Wife of
Solomon Yeamans
Died Feb. 10, 1855
Aged 39.

Sarah A.
their daughter
died Feb. 9, 1839
aged 11 mo's.



"EACH IN HIS NARROW CELL FOREVER LAID,
THE RUDE FOREFATHERS OF THE HAMLET SLEEP."



Map

Showing Approximately the Location of Farms and Roads of Meriden in 1770

Placed on the map of Town 1851.

Drawn by S. C. Pierson, Engr. from Notes furnished by Geo. M. Curtis

*Error. This should be Aaron Lyman instead of Aaron Seymour.

CHAPTER XIII.

To faithfully and fully portray life in Meriden as it was during the eighteenth century is of course impossible; but many facts have been gleaned from the records that at least shed light on the conditions then existing, and which will make it possible for one with a little imagination to catch glimpses of the daily life of this long forgotten generation and to acquire a slight acquaintance with some of the characters that were once the central figures in this tiny community of more than a century ago.

This parish was a very isolated farming settlement—a rural suburb of Wallingford—one of the larger towns of the colony. Every family lived on the produce of its farm, or by the proceeds of some useful trade which was secondary to the work of tilling the soil. There was no great difference between the various families in the value of their possessions. There was not much wealth in the hands of any one man, neither was any person very poor, except he were some poor unfortunate to whom nature had denied an ordinary mental equipment.

Many of the houses have been portrayed, and more will be shown later. Life in them was of a Spartan-like simplicity. There was little news from the outside world: there were no daily newspapers and very little to read of any description. Of course the Bible was read and reread, faithfully and devoutly in a manner of which we can hardly form a conception.

The early Puritan read the Bible to such an extent that his mind was fairly Judaized as some one has expressed it, and his successor of the eighteenth century for want of other material was nearly as faithful in his devotion to its sacred pages.

The few presses in the colony were always busy printing the sermons of different eminent preachers, which were widely circulated and read. Parson Hall delivered a sermon on August 10, 1760, entitled "A Saving Faith Scripturally Explained" that was afterwards published, and a copy dug out of the rubbish of an old Meriden attic, where it had slumbered in an ancient pelt covered trunk for at least seventy-five years, bears the marks of most diligent reading. Its 56 pages are stained and worn with constant use. Beside it was a Bible in the same condition. They are silent witnesses of the dearth of reading material in those days of long ago.

The annual almanac was a noteworthy event, and it was read diligently, used as a farmer's log book, and by some the weather predictions were implicity believed. About the only book for children was the New England Primer. Out-

side of the school books it was almost their sole mental pabulum and stimulus.[1] Even when the library was established in Meriden in 1796, the list of books in its catalogue has hardly a single inviting title. Truly it was a time of literary famine.

All the dwellings in Meriden were farm houses; there was no village street where could be found the homes of those who had accumulated sufficient wealth to indulge in a dignified architectural representation of their position and taste. Meriden houses were plain to severity. There was little or no attempt at ornamentation on the exterior. Inside there was frequently to be found some good paneling and wainscoting, or a handsome mantel, or a quaint and pleasing corner cupboard. On every house the clapboards were nailed directly to the studding, and in the earliest there was no plaster on the inside of the outside walls, boards being used in its place.

Such houses were comfortable enough in summer; but think what the condition must have been in winter! Of course, the cold of the rooms was tempered by the huge fires maintained on the ample hearths. But as such fires only radiate heat as they do light, one part of the body would be roasted, while over the

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1 The writer has a little book entitled "The School of Good Manners," printed in New London in 1754 by T. & J. Green. It was designed for the instruction of children and this copy has been well thumbed. A picture of the times is presented in the following extracts: "Make a Bow always when you come Home and be immediately uncoverd"; "Never Sit in the Presence of Thy Parents without bidding, tho' no Stranger be present." "Never speak to thy Parents without some Title of Respect, viz. Sir, Madam, &c." "Sit not down at Table till thou art bidden by thy Parents." "Speak not at the Table." "Bite not thy Bread, but break it; but not with slovenly Fingers nor with the same wherewith thou takest up thy Meat." Apparently there were no forks.

There was another book, widely circulated in N. E. entitled "The Day of Doom," by Michael Wigglesworth. Tyler (in his History of American Literature) says "its pages were assigned in course to little children, to be learned by heart, along with the catechism." The pictures of the torments of hell are most graphic and it is scarcely conceivable that such a book should have been put in the hands of children at the impressionable age. At the last judgment the words spoken to unbaptized children are as follows:

"You sinners are; and such a share
As sinners, may expect,
Such you shall have, for I do save
None but mine own elect.
Yet to compare your sin with their
Who lived a longer time,
I do confess yours is much less
Though every sin's a crime.
A crime it is; therefore in bliss
You may not hope to dwell;
But unto you I shall allow
The easiest room in hell."

The torments of those in hell are thus scorchingly described:

With iron bands they bind their hands
And cursed feet together;
And cast them all, both great and small,
Into that lake forever;
Where day and night, without respite,
They wail and cry and howl,
For torturing pain which they sustain,
In body and in soul.
For day and night, in their despite
Their torment's smoke ascendeth;
Their pain and grief have no relief,
Their anguish never endeth.
There must they live and never die
Though dying every day,
There must they, dying, ever live,
And not consume away.

This milk for babes and intellectual stimulus for adults, was absorbed down to the beginning of the last century.

other, the drafts generated by the huge fires would play an accompaniment to Jack Frost outside. If this was the lot of one in the sitting room or kitchen, it is easy to imagine the situation in a bed room and to understand the use for warming pans and feather beds. They were absolute necessities if one did not wish to freeze to death.

Of course, no water could be kept in a chamber in such a frigid temperature, and as there were no bathrooms or places of ablution except in the kitchen, the habits of personal cleanliness to which all are accustomed to-day must have been almost wholly lacking. One will look in vain in the ancient inventories for such items as washbowls and pitchers. There was now and then such an article as a pewter or an earthen bowl, but water was not considered the necessity it is deemed to-day. Even at a much later date when our forbears had begun to use the earthen ware bowl and pitcher the diminutive size is a confession, that even in warm weather at that date, the maxim of Lord Bacon that "Cleanliness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence to God" was more honored in the breach than in the observance.

There was certainly an abundance of food of various kinds, but fresh meat could only be had when a "butchering" took place, and every farmer was accustomed in the fall to salt down a hog or a side of beef for use during the long winter months. Poultry there was in plenty, and eggs, milk, butter and cheese, and vegetables of various kinds. But the cooking can hardly have been of a nature to tempt the modern appetite.

Game must have been in abundance at first, but even as long ago as 1760 there was a law in force on the colonial statute book regulating the killing of deer, and forbidding it each year between the first day of January and the first day of August, under a penalty of four pounds for every offense. In several cases the writer has noticed in the ancient inventories the mention of wild pigeon nets, showing that our ancestors were prepared to take advantage of the great flights of pigeons that annually took place, and to have a great feast of these toothsome birds, besides using the feathers for beds and pillows.[1]

Troublesome game was more abundant than deer. In the issue of the New London Gazette Oct. 10, 1766, appears a letter from Hartford saying, "There are the greatest number of bears come down among the towns that ever was known; they destroy great quantities of Indian corn and make great havoc among the sheep and swine. Last Tuesday morning a large He Bear was discovered in an inclosure opposite the Treasurers and being pursued he took to the Main street," etc., etc. "In the evening he was roasted whole and a large company sup'd on him."

1 Trumbull's History of Conn. Vol. I., p. 20, ed. 1898, says: "There were such incredible numbers of pigeons in New England, when the English became first acquainted with it, as filled them with a kind of astonishment. Such numerous and extensive flocks would be seen flying for some hours, in the morning, that they would obscure the light." This continued until well into the eighteenth century.

Again, on Feb. 2, 1767, a Hartford letter says in same newspaper, "One night last week a panther killed nine sheep in a yard at Windsor." When such things could happen in towns as large as these it can easily be imagined how plentiful game was about Meriden. A bounty was paid for all troublesome game destroyed; notably wolves. On one occasion Thomas Yale killed a she wolf which was about to litter. The town voted to pay the bounty for the old wolf but balked at the "young wolves that were in the belly of the wolf he killed."[1]

These illustrations of the primitive conditions then existing might be multiplied by accounts of the household work of the women, in weaving the wool into garments, and the flax into linen for sheets and undergarments; of home-made soap and candles; and of the various domestic makeshifts for what is now to be purchased ready made at any store. But enough has been written to make us realize the truth of the statement made by Henry Adams in his History of the United States, saying that "neither their houses, their clothing, their food and drink, their agricultural tools and methods, their stock, nor their habits were so greatly altered or improved by time that the eorls and ceorls of Offa and Egbert would have found much difficulty in accommodating their lives to that of their descendants of the eighteenth century."[2]

All worked with their hands, either at farming or in following some useful trade such as that of a blacksmith, a carpenter, a shoemaker, or a tanner. Most of the clothing was homespun, woven at home by the women, as well as made up into suits and gowns by them.

It was common to apprentice young boys to a neighbor to learn a trade, and the papers and documents drawn up and executed on such occasions were of a very formal and binding nature. Daniel Hough, who lived at the corner of Curtis and Ann streets, was a blacksmith and nail maker.

In 1746 his uncle, William Hough, the doctor, whose house still stands in Walnut Grove cemetery, placed his son, William, with Daniel, to learn the trade. The following is a copy of the document that was executed at the time:

"This Indenture made this twenty-fourth day of March in the nineteenth year of the Reign of King George y^{e} Second Annoq. Domini 1746. Between William Hough of Meriden in Wallingford in New Haven County in Connecticut Colony

1 A gentleman who was a boy in Meriden in 1830, not long ago wrote as follows: It may interest some of your sportsmen to know that in 1830 the streams all the way from Black Pond to the "Corner" were the habitat of great numbers of speckled trout, and three-pounders have been taken from Prattsville pond by a boy with a short pole, a piece of twine, and a common hook baited with a worm. I have seen Sherman Lawrence about 1830, carrying a string of trout of large size, which he had caught with the primitive gear of that day, in the stream just above the bridge at the "Corner."

Lovers of the gentle art of Izaak Walton would have found a paradise in this territory during the eighteenth century; but it is doubtful if trout were as highly esteemed then as they are to-day. The writer has heard second-hand from one who was a boy then, that the streams were so full of trout that no effort was required to catch them.

2 Vol I., pp. 16-17.

in New England & his son William Hough on the one part and Daniel Hough of s^d^ Meriden in County & Colony afores^d^ Blacksmith & Nailer, on the other part witnesseth

That the s^d^ William Hough minor by & with the advice & consent of his father doth Hereby bind and put out Himself unto the s^d^ Daniel Hough as an apprentice to Serve for the full space of six years to be compleated from the twenty-fourth day of this Instant March, During all which term of time the s^d^ apprentice his s^d^ Master & Mistress shall faithfully serve, their Secrets keep and all their Lawful Commands obey: During s^d^ term the s^d^ apprentice shall not fornication committ nor Matrimony Contract, neither shall he spend his time in idleness, nor in any other unlawful way during all s^d^ term, neither shall He purloin his s^d^ Masters Estate, nor do any Rong thereunto, nor suffer it to be done by others without due information thereof, nor absent himself from his s^d^ master's service during all s^d^ term: But shall do His Honest Endeavour to promote his Master's Interest & his s^d^ Master & Mistress shall faithfully Serve as an apprentice ought to do During all s^d^ term.

And the s^d^ Daniel Hough doth Hereby bind and oblige Himself unto the s^d^ apprentice that he will teach & instruct him or cause Him to be well taught and learnt in the art & mystery of a Blacksmith and also of a Nailer and teach and instruct him in writing and cyphering so far as to be able to keep a Book of accompts, and that he will well provide for the s^d^ apprentice suitable Meat Drink apparel washing & lodging Both in Sickness & Health During all s^d^ term. And at the end of s^d^ term, that he will Dismiss the s^d^ apprentice with two Good Suits of apparel to all parts of his Body the one for work Days & the other for holy days. In witness whereof the partys Have Hereunto interchangeably set Hands & Seals the Day & Date first mentioned.

Signed Sealed & Delivered in presence of — William Hough
Theophilus Hall — Will Hough
Hannah Hall — Daniel Hough"

Whether the terms of this indenture were faithfully kept we do not know; perhaps not, for on Dec. 16 of the following year Daniel sued Dr. Hough and attached his real estate in Meriden. Wm. Hough, Jr., afterwards carried on the blacksmith business in Rice's Farms in a shop near his home. These apprentices sometimes caused their masters trouble and now and then ran away. The following advertisement is from a New Haven newspaper:

"Run away from the subscriber, on Tuesday, the 4th inst. Sept. an apprentice by the name of Cull Malory, about 20 years old, 5 feet high, light complexion. Whoever will return said boy shall receive one cent reward and no charges. All persons are forbid harboring or trusting said boy on penalty of the law.

Joseph Twiss."

Evidently the notice was for the purpose of disclaiming all responsibility for bills the boy might contract rather than to get him back. Joseph Twiss lived on Colony street in the old Robert Collins place.

Naturally the first industry to locate in Meriden, other than farming and some of the minor crafts such as shoemaking and blacksmithing, was milling. The first mill of which we have a record was one owned by James Hough. On May 14th, 1730, he bought of the Way family two acres in the "bend of the Harbor where it was most convenient to build a saw mill."[1]

The "bend" was the name given to that part of Harbor brook where it changes from a northerly course and bends towards the southwest. Very shortly a grist mill was added and the old records sometimes mention one and sometimes the other.

James Hough was the son of Samuel, who was proprietor of a mill somewhere in the vicinity of Spruce Glen or Gutter, just over the Wallingford line. Samuel in his will dated in 1714 mentions the mill and gives it to his grandson Samuel who afterwards sold it to his father James, so that James at one time owned two mills.

When Wall street was laid out in 1739 it terminated at Hough's Mills, according to the records, joining the road leading to Middletown. These saw and grist mills continued in possession of James and his son Phineas, during the greater part of the eighteenth century.

The first outsider to obtain an interest in the mills was Joseph Shaylor, who on May 7, 1790, bought a quarter share from the heirs of Phineas Hough. His venture was not successful for a little later he was forced out on an execution for debt. Then Joel Mix and Jonathan Collins became part owners. On Dec. 15, 1796, James Baldwin obtained a quarter interest in the saw mill, and the year previous Titus Brockett bought all rights in the grist mill, so that for a term of years it was known as Brockett's mill. James Baldwin eventually obtained both mills and also bought the James Hough homestead now owned by Gardner Reynolds. The mill, as every one knows, is still Baldwin property. That the saw and grist mills were contiguous is a natural inference, but just where each was located it is impossible to tell for the present mill is modern and so is the dam. Some thirty-five years ago when a new dam was being built it was swept away by a freshet; the result was a flood that inundated that section then known as West Meriden.[2]

There was another Hough mill in the town, still known by that name. It is located in the extreme western part on the Quinnipiac river—almost in the town of Cheshire. The first mention of this property that the writer has been able to

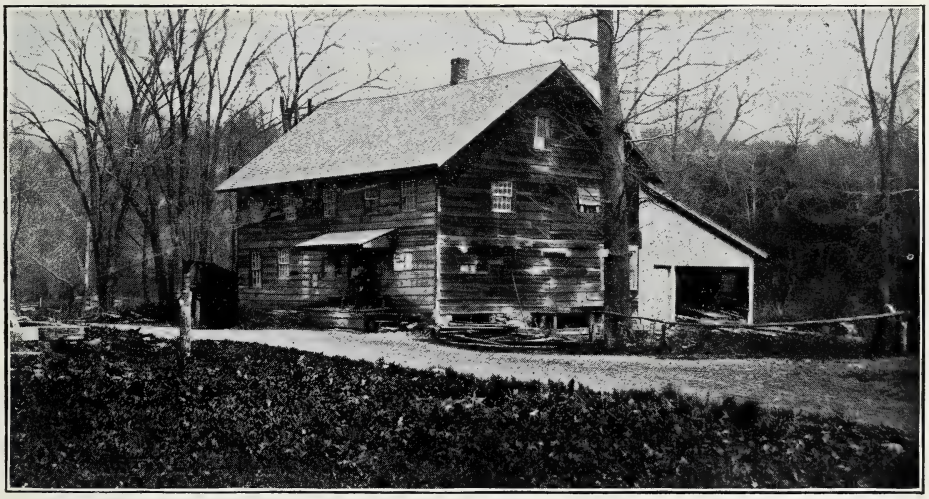
1 Wallingford land records Vol. VI., p. 329.

2 In 1807 Samuel and William Yale bought a right in the saw mill which they continued to own for a few years.

discover was made in the year 1776, and then incidentally in the transfer of a piece of real estate near it. Probably the mill was established much earlier than this date.

It was known as the Ephraim Hough[1] mill and was used both for sawing logs and grinding grain. The illustration from a photograph taken twenty years ago, shows a building that is evidently quite ancient and may be the original grist mill. There is a tradition that corn was here ground and then carted to New Haven to be shipped to the West Indies. It is said that spoons were once manufactured in the old building. Certain it is that this mill and the vicinity was once a very busy place and the center of more trade than was then carried on in Meriden.

It continued in the Hough family solely until 1784 when James Baldwin bought an interest in it—the same Baldwin who later purchased Hough mills in the north



HOUGH'S MILL.

east section of the town. On Dec. 12, 1792, he sold his right to Caleb Atwater and later the property was acquired by a firm called Wadsworth, Hull[2] & Atwater. During the last century it was for a long time owned by the Bristol family. It is now occupied by George McKenzie, who still grinds grain at the old stand and also uses the water power for polishing marble grave stones which are cut in the yard adjoining.

In the east part of Meriden on Black Pond brook were a saw and a grist mill that should be mentioned. The earliest notice is in a deed dated Mar. 3, 1783,

1 He was a son of James Hough, owner of mill in N. E. part of Meriden.
2 Generals James Wadsworth of Durham and Andrew Hull of Cheshire.

in which Levi Hall gives to John Ives, Jr., a half interest in a grist mill on Black Pond brook, half a mile west of the pond. In 1785 the two owners admitted Joshua Ives into the partnership. Apparently the location of this mill was a little east of where the Charles Parker Co. spoon factory is now situated, the east end of a small pond still in existence marking the site. In 1785 Silvanus Nichols, of Middletown, bought this property, who in turn sold it to Joseph Driggs, of the same place in 1792. In 1794 Constant Miller bought it and had added a fulling plant to the establishment by 1796. Very shortly, the records call it solely the fulling mill and in the early part of the next century it has grown to the dignity of a clothier's shop, and is the property of Stephen Miller, who sold it to his three sons in 1816; in 1829 the records call it an establishment for "carrying on the clothier's and dyer's business and carding wool." On Nov. 2, 1837, Joseph Miller sold the mill to Samuel Cook, who conducted the business for a number of years.

Quite a distance southeast of the Miller clothier's shop, in fact, near the dam or outlet of Black Pond was a saw mill that was probably run by Brenton Hall. It was then abandoned and probably disappeared, for on Nov. 9, 1796, Brenton Hall leased to Phineas Hall 2d, the "saw mill place where the saw mill formerly stood," and by the terms of the lease Phineas was obliged to erect the mill and give to Brenton half the net proceeds. It was apparently run for a number of years by Phineas Hall. Many years later Edwin Birdsey owned a saw mill at the same location, where he later manufactured wooden drawer pulls, wooden combs and bone buttons. The shop was afterwards destroyed by fire.

In the year 1735 John Merriam, Sr., owned a saw mill that was run by water power supplied by Sodom brook. The first mention of it was when he opened up a two rod highway, starting at the Country road just north of his house, and running west to his saw mill. As previously mentioned, this was the beginning of West Main street. The stream was at that early date called Beaver Dam brook. Sodom was at that time a name for a tract of country lying west of the State School for Boys. This Merriam saw mill in all probability was situated where Nathan Fenn's mill was located many years after. The pond was drained off when the Waterbury railroad was built, and the railroad station stands in what was formerly the bed of the pond and is a short distance east of the old mill site. Merriam's saw mill is frequently mentioned in the records during the eighteenth century, and for a number of years after the nineteenth century had opened.

The first notice found of Andrews' mill was in the year 1798 when Ezekiel Rice sold to Ambrose Hough a piece of land on which to build a grist mill and at the same time Moses Andrews leased to Hough a tract of land to flood when his dam should be built. The following year Hough disposed of the property and it was soon in the hands of Giles Foster and then included a kiln drying house, showing that a saw mill had been added, and later the records say a gin distillery was installed. Two years later Eli Barnes, who was then living in

the house now known as the Calvin Coe place, bought the mill. It would be tedious to follow the different transfers until it finally drifted into the hands of the Andrews family by whom it was run as a grist mill many years during the last century. The old establishment is idle now and it has ground its last bag of grain for the dam and pond have disappeared, and the old building stands as a monument of departed days and conditions. For those who do not know the old names and places, it may be stated that the mill is on the road to Hanover or South Meriden, a few hundred feet east of the Oliver Rice place.

The reason that Ambrose Hough (who was a son of Ephraim Hough, owner of Hough's mill near Cheshire street) sold the Andrews mill, was because he had cast his eye on a site nearer the center of the parish. Cat Swamp, just south of the Curtain Fixture factory on Parker avenue, is the source of a small stream that runs north and crosses Broad near Liberty street and runs down near the reservoir on Hobart street, and finally makes its way westward under Center street and the Manning, Bowman & Co. factory until it comes to Harbor Brook. At the point near the intersection of Broad and Liberty streets it was known a hundred years ago as Roaring Gully. In the year 1800 Levi Curtis, who lived in the old Samuel Jerome house and owned a part of the farm, leased to Ambrose Hough a piece of land southwest of his house and extending west across the south end of present Hobart street to erect a dam and form a pond for his grist mill that he was to build. The land in the vicinity has now been filled in to such an extent that it is difficult to realize that there was ever a pond and a mill in that locality. The brook must have been a much larger stream than it is to-day to have gained such a formidable name as Roaring Gully. At about the same time Mr. Hough built a house in which he lived, that is still standing and owned by Walter B. Hall, No. 202 Liberty street. The position of the house so far below the level of the street is a strong evidence of how much filling in has taken place at that point. Mr. Hough's mill must have stood a short distance east of Center and north of Liberty streets. There are many people living who remember this pond called Jordan, in which the Baptists formerly immersed their converts.

In 1804 a gin distillery was added to the establishment and William Olds was admitted as a partner, and later Partrick Clark became a part owner. How long the mill and distilling plant continued to be used the writer has been unable to learn; the last notice of it was in 1828 when it was owned by Jonathan Nicholson and Cyrus Manvil of New Haven.

Fulling mills were necessary establishments in a community where most of the cloth worn was woven in the farm houses by the wives and daughters. Before this home-spun fabric could be used it was necessary to have it treated in fulling stocks or troughs, where it was made thoroughly wet with warm soap and water, or fuller's earth in place of the soap. It was here vigorously pounded by great oaken mallets worked by water power. This process cleaned the web, and at the

same time thickened and shrunk it. A nap was given by "teazelling" or scratching the surface with a large prickly bur or thistle grown on a plant that was cultivated for the purpose and called fuller's teazel. If a color was to be given the cloth was immediately placed in the dyeing vats, and afterwards taken to the tenter field, where it was spread to dry.

Naturally, there were shops and mills in Wallingford many years before any were established in Meriden. As a matter of fact, as long ago as 1746, there was a ship-building yard on the Quinnipiac river that must have been on the other side of the stream opposite where the factory of R. Wallace & Sons Mfg. Co. is located. On Book 10, Page 208, of the Wallingford land records, Lent Munson transferred to Daniel Clark "2½ acres of meadow land on the west side of the river a little south of Parker's bridge near against the middle of the town at the Ship Building Yard." The word "ship" indicates that boats of considerable size were constructed, perhaps as large as a small-sized sloop. David Cook, of Wallingford, an active man at this date, was a ship owner and had vessels that were sent to all parts of the world, and were used in bringing negro slaves to this country. Who owned the ship-building yard no one knows.

That section of Wallingford, now known as Yalesville, was once called Tyler's Mills. In the year 1748 Samuel Tyler, of that locality, owned a fulling mill which must have stood a little east of the present dam, for the meadow where it was located was bounded on the east by the river, but his clothing shop was on the hill west of it, perhaps where the Parker box shop now stands. In the year mentioned Tyler leased the mill and shop to James Hazard of Blanford, Mass., for the term of three years, with all utensils belonging to said mill for carrying on the clothiers trade, such as mill "tainters," hooks, shears, presses, dyes, dye stuff, coppers, etc., and also the help of his two sons, Lothrop and Samuel Tyler, who were to be taught the art and mystery of the clothier's trade. Tyler was "to provide Hazard with sufficient meat, drink, washing and lodging, and keep the mill in repair," and was to receive as remuneration half the proceeds. This lease appears on Book 10, Page 494, of Wallingford land records, and is the first mention the writer has found of a fulling mill in the town of Wallingford.

One of the mills in Meriden of this description has been mentioned. There were two others: the first was near the Ephraim Hough mill at the Cheshire line. The earliest mention of it was in 1769 when Ephraim Hough gave to his son Ephraim a piece of land on which stood a fulling mill he had built for him. It is mentioned again incidentally in 1793 and afterwards there is no further notice to be found. It stood just west of the grist mill.

In the September 12, 1797, issue of the Connecticut Journal, New Haven, appears the following advertisement:

"Blue Dyeing: The business of fulling, dyeing and dressing woolen cloth blue

(and other colors) is carried on by the subscriber: also, woolen, cotton, and linen yarn dyed blue. Those who wish for work done in the above business, are invited to call on the subscriber at his shop in Meriden, where he wishes to serve the public to their satisfaction. Noel Ives.

Meriden September 12 1797."

The writer is unable to positively identify the site of this fulling mill. There is, however, a strong probability that it was on that branch of Pilgrims' Harbor brook which flows north into Baldwin's pond.

Many persons know the location of a huge trap-rock bowlder standing on the edge of the brook, about a quarter of a mile east of Gravel street, which is called Phebe rock. Children used to resort there years ago for picnics and afternoon excursions. Some three or four hundred feet south of this rock on the edge of the brook, can still be plainly traced, depressions marking the site of a wheelpit and raceway; while some ways to the south are to be seen the remains of an ancient dam. There is not the slightest sign of a building or machinery.

William Atwater, who has lived more than fourscore years and ten and is still in vigorous health, resides in a house on Gravel street, directly west of this mill site; he led the writer to the spot one summer afternoon, during the year just passed. Trees and shrubs now shelter the place with a thick shade, and the brook glides quietly by on its way to Baldwin's pond to the north. William Hubbard Yale, who died a few years ago an old man, once pointed out the site to Mr. Atwater and told him that long ago a fulling mill was located there, but whose it was he did not know, although he, his father and grandfather had owned the adjoining farm for a hundred years at least. There seems to the writer little doubt that Mr. Yale pointed out to Mr. Atwater the site of Noel Ives' fulling mill and further evidence that this mill was located in about the spot mentioned is found in the following advertisement from the Middlesex Gazette of Mar. 1, 1797:

"The Subscriber respectfully informs the Public, that he is about to set up the dyeing of Cotton and Linen Yarn Blue, at Meriden in Wallingford, one mile east of the Meeting House at the Clothier's Shop occupied by Noel Ives. Those that will please to favor him with their custom may depend on having good colours and done with Dispatch by Joseph Rogers."

In the year 1781 a stocking weaving shop was established, somewhere, apparently, on the Country road in Rice's farms, for in the Connecticut Journal under date of October, 1781, the following advertisement appears:

"James Vautie, stocking weaver, Has removed into Meriden, about four miles north of Wallingford Meeting House, on the road to Hartford, where he carries

on his trade of Stocking-weaving and asks the continuance of the Favour of his former customers, and others. Said Vautie wants a journey man Stocking-weaver, who may have constant employ and good wages. Also an Apprentice to said Business."

In the issue of the Middlesex Gazette dated April 20, 1801, "Jonathan Yale informs the public, that he intends carrying on the business of Dyeing yarn blue and stamping handkerchiefs at his dwelling house in Meriden."

On Colony street, on the east side, perhaps about opposite the foot of Wilcox avenue, was once a shop for manufacturing potash. The first mention of the establishment was in the year 1771 when it was owned by John Barrett. In the Connecticut Journal July 30, 1777, appears the following notice:

"On Thursday the 7th day of August will be sold at Robinsons tavern in Meriden; The dwelling house, both potash works, and utensils, together with the land on which they stand, in quantity about an acre and a half, situate in said Meriden, being the same lately owned by Mr. Barrett. The potash works are as complete as any in the state: the house has been built but a little while and that with the other buildings are in good repair. The vendue will begin at three of the clock P. M. A title to the aforesaid several houses, barns &c will be given by the subscribers of said New Haven.

Samuel Bishop Junior
David Austin
Pierpont Edwards"

Matthew Bellamy bought the works and John Carter, Jehiel Preston and John Hooker were later owners.

In the year 1795 Amos White bought the corner adjoining the present home lot of Eli C. Birdsey and erected a store, and we find in the Middlesex Gazette, under date of May 18th, 1796, the following:

"New Goods: Just opened and now ready for sale, a few rods east of the Meeting House in Meriden, a general assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries and Hardware, which will be disposed of on very reasonable Terms for cash or short approved credit. Amos White & Co."

The "Co." was a man named John Hooker, for he seems to have been closely associated with him in business. Amos White was later the first town clerk of Meriden. This store was probably the first one opened in Meriden. The lot was bounded on the east by Sabbath day house and horse shed lots according to the deed.

Another store, started shortly after, was owned by Amasa Curtis, whose partner was Isaac Lewis, father of the late Isaac C. Lewis. It was at first on the east side of Curtis street near its junction with Broad but in the year 1800 it was located just opposite, in the old house which is still standing in the point formed by Curtis and Broad streets.

The business was carried on in the northwest room, and continued until the year 1808 when Amasa died, only thirty-nine years old. He built the house and bought the lot in 1799, of Benjamin Hart, the consideration being a beaver hat. There was just an acre in the plot and it was bounded on all sides by streets, the high-



AMOS CURTIS HOUSE.

way running west from Curtis street being then in existence; it has already been described.

The house was bought of the Amasa Curtis heirs by Amos, his brother, and most people know it to-day as the Amos Curtis place. In it were born his children, the late William A., the late Sylvester J., a stockbroker of New York and the late Mrs. Edgar Munson (Lucy Maria), of Williamsport, Pa. The writer has heard many times of the trips to New York made by Amasa to buy goods for his little country shop: of how his wife and neighbors would gather around and throw old shoes after him as an omen of good luck, when he started on the perilous trip to

the great city, which involved perhaps several days in a sailing vessel on the waters of the Sound, or two or three days in a stage coach.

Wallingford village, as compared to Meriden in those early days, was a large town. There were several stores there, a short account of which may not be amiss.

One was run by the immortal Roger Sherman, of New Haven, an ardent patriot, and signer of the Declaration of Independence. In an advertisement in the Connecticut Gazette of March 10, 1761, he speaks of his stores at New Haven and Wallingford. In two entries of the town records he levied execution on two different farms in Meriden showing that he must have had business in this vicinity.

Under date of January 17, 1761, the Connecticut Gazette prints, "Just imported and to be sold by Samuel Holt, Wallingford, an assortment of English goods."

Under date of March 4, 1778, The Connecticut Journal prints, "To be sold by Jason Tyler, of Wallingford: West India and New England rum, currant wine, Muscovado sugar of the best quality, indigo, pins, needles, choice bohea Tea, alspices, Dilsworths Spelling Books, white holland cambric, gauze, fine twixed dimothy, chintz, calico, mohair, snuff, white and black shammy gloves, white lead, Prussian blue, black ribbon, white tape, writing paper, a quantity of cyder; Goshen peas and cheese, bar iron, cart tire, crooked and straight combs, scissors and jackknives." What modern store in Wallingford can display a greater variety?

The year 1779, Jan. 24, the same paper says, "To be sold for cash at the store adjoining Doctor Jared Potter's in Wallingford—Rum, wine, etc." Dr. Potter was one of the most prominent physicians in New Haven county and his home lot is now the site of St. Paul's Episcopal church.

The same year the doctor advertises, "Rum, brandy, coffee, tea, pepper, indigo, nails, etc.," and again on March 24, 1779, "American manufactured steel to be sold by Doctor Jared Potter, in Wallingford."

On June 23, 1779, the Connecticut Journal prints, "Excellent earthen ware by wholesale and retail, to be sold on as reasonable Terms as the Times will admit of by Hosford and Hull at their Earthern Ware store in Wallingford near Capt. James Rice's."

On March 29, 1781, the Connecticut Journal tells us that "Hezekiah Johnson has for sale at his store in Wallingford, West India Rum by the barrel or gallon, New England Rum by do. glass, tea & dry goods," and on May 31 the same paper says, "To be sold by Newton Whittlesey at his store in Wallingford Dry Goods, knives & forks, spices, etc., together with West India goods." On Nov. 27, 1782, the Connecticut Journal announces, "Isaac Bull, druggist and apothecary in Wallingford Hereby informs his friends and customers in particular and the public in general That he has just received a fresh and general supply of the most useful medicines; also sundry other articles, such as Madeira, Malaga and Port wines, Raisins, Figs, etc."

On Dec. 5, 1783, "Oil of Vitriol of the best quality, by the C. T. or less Quantity, European and West India goods to be sold by the Subscriber: Caleb Atwater."

Dr. Potter had later formed a partnership with two other gentlemen, John McCleave and Elisha Whittlesey, Junior, which was dissolved on Jan. 1, 1785, and the following notice printed:

"The Partnership of Potter, McCleave & Whittlesey, is this day dissolved by mutual agreement—all persons indebted to them by book or note, are requested to make immediate payment, and those who have demands on said company, to render their accounts for settlement—it being necessary to close their accounts speedily; they flatter themselves, that this notice will have its desired effect."

On Oct. 19, 1791, the Connecticut Journal prints:

"Aaron Hackley has for sale at his store in Wallingford A Good assortment of European and India Goods, which he is selling as cheap as any of his neighbors. Said Hackley has set up a Button Factory in said Wallingford, where Gentlemen Merchants and others may be supplied with Hard Metal Buttons of various Sizes and Figures, wholesale and Retail as cheap and as good as they can be purchased on the Continent. All kinds of produce, woolen, Linen, Tow Cloth and Yarn will be received for any of the above articles. Cash paid for Block Tin, old Pewter, Brass & Copper by said Hackley: who wants a likely, healthy well-bred Lad 12 or 14 years old, as an Apprentice to the Button-Making Business."

On August 26, 1791, Caleb Atwater announces that he has gone out of business and desires all persons owing him to settle their accounts at once.

On Nov. 28, 1791, the Connecticut Journal states:

"Stanley & Carrington have for sale at their store in Wallingford a few rods east of the church, A General assortment of European and West India Goods, which they are now selling on the most reasonable terms. They want to purchase a number of likely Shipping Horses, and a quantity of barley, for which good pay will be made. They also want to purchase a quantity of Pork for which they will pay one-half in cash."

On March 14, 1793, Samuel Tyler and Jared Kirtland announce that the partnership heretofore existing between them is by mutual consent dissolved, and that all persons indebted to them for clothier's work done since Sept., 1788, are requested immediately to settle. This was at Tyler's Mills, now Yalesville.

On March 27, 1794, the Connecticut Journal states:

"To be sold by the Subscriber, Garden Seeds of all kinds. From that celebrated garden belonging to the Shaking Quakers in New Lebanon. Those persons not only take pains to save the earliest and best seeds, but they import them once in two or three years from their friends in London. Asahel Benham.

N. B. Some of the seed called Scarcity."

On March 19, 1800, the partnership existing between Joshua Atwater and Thomas B. Cook was dissolved.

On April 7, 1800, the following advertisement appears:

"The Subscriber has constantly for sale warranted axes made by one of the best workmen at his shop in Wallingford. James Carrington."

The following advertisement relating to the mills known as Tylers, now Yalesville, appears in the Connecticut Journal:

"These are to inform the Public, That the subscribers have a machine now in motion, at Mr. Samuel Tylers Mills in Wallingford, on the turnpike road leading from Hartford to New Haven, where sheeps wool will be broke and carded into rolls on the shortest notice at 10 cents per pound: wool must be well picked & not more than one ounce of oil to one pound of wool. Rolls can be done up in sheets or blankets, and carried any distance without injury. Likewise batting wool broke in the best manner at 6 cents per pound. . . . All commands attended to by the publics humble servants,

Strang, Woodruff & others.

Wallingford, July 25, 1803."

Besides paying so much attention to trade the citizens of Wallingford were interested in matters educational. The following notices appear in the Connecticut Journal:

"The subscriber has opened a school in Wallingford for the purpose of instructing young Ladies and Gentlemen in the Latin, Greek and English languages, Arithmetic, Geography, Composition, etc. Tuition will be low, and no endeavour wanting to give satisfaction. George W. Stanley.

Wallingford, July 1, 1794."

"Boarding School. The public are respectfully informed that a school for Young Ladies will be opened in Wallingford on the first day of May next, in the house formerly occupied by the Rev. Mr. Andrews but now by Mrs. Hall and her Daughter from New York, in which will be taught tambour work embroidery and various kinds of fine needle work, by Miss Hall: and to such as choose, reading,

writing, arithmetic and Geography, by the Rev. Mr. Hart: Good accommodations will be provided by Mrs. Hall.

Wallingford, April 16, 1795."

Choate School for Boys stands to-day on the site of Mr. Andrews' house.

Truly, Wallingford must have been a veritable metropolis to the people of Meriden.

Taverns in those early days were very important centers of life in every community. There the farmers congregated to learn the news of the outside world



SITE OF THE OLD BELCHER FARM.

Arrow No. 1 indicates the site of the Gilbert or Belcher tavern; No. 2 indicates the site of the old stone house or fort, and No. 3 indicates residence of A. R. Yale adjoining.

from the chance traveler, to get their mail, and to exchange notes and observations on crops and live stock. No one was permitted to become an inn-keeper without the recommendation of the selectmen, and a license obtained from the county court. It was a profession of eminent respectability, even if considerable liquor was sold.

There was one tavern keeper in Meriden who was relieved of the necessity of obtaining a license, and he was the owner of the stone house and Belcher tavern

on Meriden Farm. John Yale, who with Jedediah Norton had bought the western part of this old farm, in the division of the same with Norton, took the southern half which included the tavern. He ran the inn for a number of years and then gave it to his son, Nash Yale, in 1750.

Nash continued as proprietor until 1763 when he sold it to Yale Bishop, of New Haven, perhaps a relative.

In June, 1770, appears the following advertisement in the Connecticut Journal:

"To be sold or let by the Subscriber: The noted House and Homestead in the Parish of Meriden, in the Town of Wallingford where he now lives, containing about one hundred acres with a suitable Proportion of Meadow, Pasture, Plow and Wood Land. The Buildings are all convenient, and in good Repair. The house is a licensed House by the colony. Whoever Purchases the Premises will have a right to keep a House of Entertainment: it lies on the Great Road leading from Boston to New York thro' Hartford and New Haven, and is tho't by good Judges to be the best stand for a Tavernkeeper in the Colony. The Purchaser may have credit for the whole a number of years, with good Security if required, on Interest. For the Terms either of purchasing or hiring, apply to the subscriber, on the Premises, who will give a good Title. Yale Bishop."

The wife of Mr. Bishop died in 1766 and lies in the old cemetery on Meeting House hill and on her tombstone it is recorded that she "was buried with her infant on her arm."

There has been for many years a tradition that whoever owned the old tavern had a right to keep a place of entertainment forever, and its truth is settled by the statement in the advertisement. The right had been given by the General Court in 1662 when it granted to Mr. Gilbert the right to keep an inn. In other words the authority was above that of the county court to which every other tavern keeper in Meriden or the colony was obliged to apply.

On May 24, 1773, an execution on the tavern was taken by Jonathan Fitch, of New Haven, and the place soon passed into the hands of James Jauncey of New York. As Mr. Jauncey was a Tory, the farm was confiscated during the Revolutionary war and sold by the state to Watt Hubbard. It is probable that Mr. Hubbard kept a tavern here for a while and then disposed of it to Seth De Wolf. It subsequently passed into the possession of Asaph Merriam, who gave it to his son, Sidney. At what date its use as a tavern ceased the writer does not know.

Mention has already been made of Josiah Robinson's tavern, which was the really important one, according to the ancient almanacs.

Aaron Lyman was given the right to keep a tavern in 1757 by the county court and the same authority conferred a like distinction on John Webb in 1752 and 1753. But the business was short lived in the case of these two gentlemen. Daniel Hough also maintained an inn for one year in 1767. Brenton Hall in 1765 and

Bezaleel Ives in 1769-1772 and 1774 did likewise. Dr. Insign Hough bought the old Central Hotel property in 1792 of the heirs of Samuel Hall, the son of Rev. Theophilus, and in it he very soon started his tavern. The writer has been unable to discover the record giving him the authority to maintain an inn. We have already read the notice in the New Haven paper giving an account of the dinner at his house at which sat down Esq. Aaron Lyman and his wife, Capt. John Webb and his wife, Phinehas Hough and his wife, Noah Yale and his wife and the widow Sarah Yale, which would indiciate that they were in a public house. In the Middlesex Gazette of Nov. 26, 1791, appears the following: "Lee Hall advertises an elegant two story House in Meriden; good for merchant or tavern." Mr. Hall was executor of Samuel's estate.

Letter writing was probably not very common in Meriden in the eighteenth century, but taverns were used in lieu of post offices in small communities, and the post rider left there the mail to be delivered, and took thence letters to be sent away. We obtain a slight glimpse of the post rider in the issue of the Connecticut Journal under date of Feb. 2, 1770:

"Last Monday evening, the Hartford Post, having arrived at his stage in Wallingford, and but just entered the House, when his Horse and Mail were taken away: The Horse was soon found, but the Mail was missing: after searching for several Hours, it was found, near a Mile from the stage, broke open, tho' none of the Letters were gone. The Villain who committed this most audacious Offence has not yet been discovered."

For the convenience of the traveling public which was constantly growing in numbers as the colony increased in population it was determined by the General Assembly to erect on the great thoroughfares, mile stones, which would tell the wayfarer his distance from the county town; so, at the October session, 1767, the following resolution was passed:[1]

"Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court Assembled, and by the authority of the same,

That it shall be the duty of the selectmen in the several towns on the several post roads in this Colony, at the expense of such town to erect and keep up stones, at least two feet high, near the side of the common travelling road, marked with the distances from the county town of the county where such town lyes, according to the mensuration lately made by public order."[2]

1 Conn. Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 608.

2 Alice Morse Earle in her entertaining book entitled "Home Life in Colonial Days" has this to say relative to mile stones: "Benjamin Franklin set mile stones the entire way on the post-road from Boston to Philadelphia. He rode in a chaise over the road; and a machine which he had invented was attached to the chaise; and it was certainly the first cyclometer that went on that road, over which so many cyclometers have passed during the last five years. It measured the miles as he traveled.

There are three of these old mile stones still to be seen in Meriden, doubtless erected in conformity with this law. One is on the east side of Colony street in front of the Swift Company building, No. 57; another in front of the residence of Junius S. Norton, No. 596, and the third a mile north, in front of the old Eli Way farm, now owned by E. H. Higginson.

There was for a short time another industry in Meriden that brought good luck to no one, except possibly to the workmen who labored underground to bring to light the hidden wealth of copper or gold that was supposed to lurk in certain localities in Meriden. A quite full account of this enterprise is given in Mr. Perkins' Historical Sketches of Meriden. His information was gained from certain papers and documents in possession of Deacon Silas Rice: the Deacon is long since deceased but the papers are still in possession of his grandson, William B. Rice.

Copper deposits or veins were discovered in Wallingford in the year 1712, possibly through the prospecting of Gov. Jonathan Belcher or his agents. At any rate in that year articles of agreement were drawn up between William Partridge and Jonathan Belcher on the one part and a committee representing the inhabitants of Wallingford on the other. The right to dig for minerals was granted, and various acts were passed by the General Assembly to safeguard and protect the industry. The mines were dug in what is now the southeastern part of Cheshire near or on the old Bellamy farm. Other mines were established in Simsbury, in that part now set off as Granby, which later developed into the famous old Newgate prison. How much copper was mined in Wallingford there is no way of learning. We know that Jonathan Belcher and his partners expended large sums in their venture and that it resulted in loss to all concerned.

As late as 1732 Mr. Belcher was still interested in the Wallingford mines, for in that year he sent a Mr. North Ingham, of Boston, with a letter of introduction to Rev. Samuel Whittlesey of Wallingford, saying that Ingham was come to view the mines and that he was a partner with Mr. Con[ll] Adam Winthrop, of Boston. Mr. Ingham was still living in the vicinity of the mines in 1740. Undoubtedly more copper was produced in the Granby mines than in Wallingford.

The mines in Meriden had no connection with the Wallingford operations and were sunk by an entirely different set of men. On Feb. 8, 1735-6, Edw. Burroughs, of Stratford, leased to Jeremiah Atwater, Nathaniel Merriam, Samuel Austin, and others, a tract of land containing fifty acres for digging for all manner of minerals.[1] The lease specifies that the land is located just south of the Belcher farm and in the east part of the Burroughs farm. The spot where the prospecting was done

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When he had ridden a mile he stopped; from a heavy cart loaded with mile stones, which kept alongside the chaise, a stone was dropped, which was afterwards set by a gang of men." Mrs. Earle does not give the authority for this statement; but the writer does not believe Franklin was responsible for the mile stones in Meriden. The vote of the Colonial Court makes certain the pedigree of Connecticut mile stones.

1 Wallingford land records, Vol. 7, p. 476.

is on a hill east of the Hartford trunpike about a mile north of Britannia street. Beautiful specimens of clear crystal quartz have been picked up on this hill by many now living, and it was fondly hoped by our predecessors of a hundred and seventy years ago that here gold would be found. It is doubtful if anything more than a mere scratching of the surface was ever attempted by these gentlemen in their vain quest for gold. There is no evidence that actual mining operations were begun.

On the hill in the western part of Walnut Grove cemetery are the remains of an ancient working known as Golden Parlor Mine. There are two adjoining shafts still to be seen which were excavated to a depth of twelve or fifteen feet. From the shafts, galleries or drifts led to the west a good many feet. The farms of Dr. William Hough and Timothy Roys were adjoining and ran from the Country road to the river on the west. That of Timothy's was wholly west of Dr. Hough's and the common boundary was somewhere on the hill or crest where the mines were dug. The Hough farm and quite a portion of the Roys holdings were during the greater part of the last century in the possession of the Wood family, and the writer has been told by Norman S. Wood and his nephew, Charles H., that when they lived on the farm it was possible to penetrate quite a distance into the old drifts. In one of the shafts the present superintendent of the cemetery, Fred F. Bowen, found quite a nugget of copper and also the remains of one of the ancient iron hammers, probably used by the workmen in the olden days. It is not positive that the present shafts were those of the Golden Parlor mine on the Roys lease or were made by those who were digging for copper on the Hough farm. The mines were not far apart.

On the Wallingford land records under date of Feb. 2, 1735-6, appears a sale of the right to mine copper on the farm of Dr. Hough by Thomas Foster to Nathaniel Bacon and Josiah Wetmore, of Middletown, for £20.[1] On Feb. 20, 1735-6, Dr. Hough executed a new lease of the property to Samuel Dwight, Seth Wetmore, Nathaniel Bacon, Josiah Wetmore and Edward Higbee of Middletown, and Jonathan and Robert Collins of Meriden: the consideration being "one-fifth part of all dug out upon said land at the end of every month."[2]

On March 13, 1736-7, Timothy Roys leased the right to mine copper on his side of the line, which perhaps subsequently grew into the Golden Parlor Mine.[3] The lessees divided up the property in the following proportions: Edward Higbee, 1-3 part; Thomas Thomas, 1-6 part; Walter Henderson, 1-6 part; John Way, 1-30 part; Arthur Rexford, 1-15 part; Benjamin Roys, 1-15 part; Samuel Andrews, 1-15 part; Daniel Higbee, 1-30 part, and unassigned 1-15 part.

Mr. Perkins copied[4] the documents relating to this mine, in the possession of Deacon Silas Rice, and they are here reproduced:

1 Wallingford land records, Vol. VII., p. 401.
2 idem, p. 436.
3 idem, p. 428.
4 Historical Sketches of Meriden, p. 78, et seq.

"Articles of Agreement made and concluded upon this twenty Seventh day of April Anno Domini 1737 Between Edward Higbee of Middletown and Walter Henderson of Hartford, both of y^e^ county of Hartford, and Thomas Thomas of New York, Arthur Rexford, Sam^ll^ Andrews, Benj Royse, all of Wallingford, in y^e^ county of Newhaven, and Colony of Connecticut, and Daniel Higbay of Middletown in y^e^ county of Hartford afores'd, and Josiah Griswold, Thomas Goodwin, Benjamin Stillman, John Pierce, all of Wethersfield in y^e^ county aforesaid, Proprietors and Joint owners of a certain piece of land or mines in said Wallingford, as leased out to them by Timothy Royce of s^d^ Wallingford, as will appear by said Lease, reference there unto being had to carry on the work in said Mines, Witnesseth that we the s'd partys do covenant and agree to, and with each other, and do hereby oblidge and bind our Selves to Stand to, and perform the following articles viz:

1. That the name of s^d^ Mine, shall be *Golden Parlour.*

2. That the Work to be done in said Mines shall be ordered by a vote of y^e^ Majority of y^e^ owners, and y^e^ costs and charge arising on y^e^ work in said mines shall be paid according to y^e^ proportions of each owner's part.

3. That each owners vote shall be in proportion to what part he owns.

4. That if any owner or owners cannot attend y^e^ meeting or meetings appointed by y^e^ Majority of y^e^ owners in order to manage y^e^ affairs of said mine, they shall have liberty to appoint any of y^e^ owners to vote or act in his or their behalf, and said owner so appointed shall vote or act therein, shall be Esteemed as good and valid as if the owner appointing was himself present.

5. That Mr. Benj. Royce be a Clark to Enter and keep y^e^ votes that may from time to time be passed by the owners or the majority of said owners untill y^e^ said owners shall chuse another in his room in which case y^e^ said Royce is to deliver all y^e^ votes he has Entered and kept in y^e^ Hands of said owners.

6. That the last Wednesday of July, October, January and April, be days, Stated for y^e^ meeting of said owners at Meriden, to make up the acc'tts of said mine, and also to pay what Charge or Cost may arise between each Meeting to y^e^ Satisfaction of y^e^ undertaker, and if y^e^ majority of y^e^ owners shall think fitt to order a meeting on any other time or times besides those herein Stated y^e^ meetings so ordered and y^e^ affairs managed therein shall be good and valid.

7. That these articles be committed into y^e^ Hands of y^e^ Clark for y^e^ time being, and if any of y^e^ owners desire a Copy hereof, y^e^ said Clark shall give it him attested under his Hand, he or they satisfying him therefor.

In confirmation of y^e^ above mentioned articles, we the subscribers, have hereunto Sett our Hands and Seals in Meriden, the Day and Date above mentioned

Edward Higbee	L. S.	Samuel Andrus	L. S.	Thomas Goodwin	L. S.
Josiah Griswold	L. S.	John Pierce	L. S.	Benjamin Roys	L. S.
Arthur Rexford	L. S.	Thomas Thomas	L. S.	B. Stilman	L. S.

In Presence of

Amos hall Moses Parse Jr Wm Hough"

Truly, the above is very much like a modern business document.

"A Record kept by Benjamin Roys, Clark of the proprietors of the mines in the land of Timothy Roys in wollingford

February y^e^ 11 1736-7. Then the owners of the mines in the land of Timothy Roys in Wallingford, being Regularly met together at the hous of John Way in Wallingford, did then make up their Acounts of the Charge expended in the mines from 8 of November 1736 Which Charg did amount to the Sum of 86£ 4s 2d.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the mines in the land of Timothy Roys in Wallingford, February y^e^ 11 1736-7. The said oneers did make A fair agreement with Arther Rexford, one of the owners, to Dig ten foot in the north Shaft of said mines keeping the Smoth wals east and west and about five foot wide finding himself Tools and materials for the Same to be done in five months, for which work the said proprietors did unanimously agree to give Said Rexford the Sum of eighty-one pounds—81 £-0-0.

At a meeting of the Proprietors of y^e^ Mine in Meriden on y^e^ 27^th^ day of April 1737.

Voted, that mr. Griswold Shold be moderator for Said meeting.

That Thomas Thomas be an undertaker to carry on the work in Said Mine for y^e^ Space of three months next ensuing.

That y^e^ s'd Thos. Thomas be allowed at the rate of fifteen pounds per month, for so much time as he spends in said service, the time of pay to begin when the Hands begin to work in said mine.

That Arthur Rexford having desired to be released from a bargain he made to sink a shaft of ten feet deep in s'd mine that he be released.

At a meeting of y^e^ proprietors of y^e^ Mine in Meriden on y^e^ 27^th^ day of July, 1737.

Voted That Mr Grizwold be Moderator for s'd Meeting. Also Voted by a full Vote the majority of y^e^ owners, that y^e^ owners according to their proportionable parts, pay to Georg Bell the Sum of fourty pounds, upon his finishing a job of work he had undertaken to do in the Golden Parler, viz: to sink twelve feet in the deeper Shaft nerest to docter houghs and to leave the bottom of the Shaft nere the wedth and length that it now is, to find him Self with all materials &c. necisary and Sutable to cary on and finish Said work.

And at s'd meeting, July y^e^ 27 1737, the s'd owners made up their acounts which did amount to the sum of 132£ 13s 1d."

These records comprise all the knowledge we have of the doings of the Golden Parlor Mine association. There is a tradition that a cargo of ore was shipped to England and the vessel was lost at sea and the owners were so discouraged by this misfortune that the mines were abandoned.

But Dr. Hough was at work at the mines on his side of the hill 18 years later. At this time he was living in Haddam and the farm was the homestead of his son, William Hough, Jr., the blacksmith. On March 21, 1755, the son mortgaged the farm to his father and this clause occurs in the deed: "The condition of the above obligation is such that if the above William Hough shall allow his said father free liberty at the mines on the west end of his home lot to dig for ore as he shall see fit, and shall have liberty to cut timber for the use of the mines or digging drains or whatever shall be needful for carrying on the work, and shall have liberty to pass to said mines, on the south side of his home lot, from the highway, to the mines for carting,"[1] etc., etc.

These records make it very doubtful to the writer whether the remains of the shafts in the western part of Walnut Grove cemetery were those made by the Golden Parlor Mine Company or by Dr. William Hough and his lessees.

It is a singular fact that in 1754 the mining fever should have found a victim in one of Wallingford's fair damsels. That distinguished divine, Rev. Samuel Whittlesey, for many years pastor of the church in Wallingford, and one of the most popular clergymen in the colony, had a daughter, Katharine, who married on May 8, 1759, the Rev. James Dana, successor in the pastorate to the Rev. Samuel. On Nov. 29th, 1754[2] Katharine bought of the heirs of Timothy Roys all right to the mines and minerals that had formerly been leased to the Golden Parlor Mining Co., and on December 4th[3] following she bought of Timothy, Jr., 18 acres, which contained the mines in question. What she did with the property there is no record left to tell us.

Mr. Perkins says that nearly one hundred and fifty years ago Dan Johnson bought large tracts of land in the Hanging Hills district in the hope of finding minerals in sufficient quantities to make the venture pay and mentions "Within the 'Notch' is an elevation called 'Mining Hill,' which is said by those acquainted with Geology to abound in indications of valuable minerals." Many will remember the obstacle encountered by the city authorities when it was first proposed to locate the new water works or reservoir in the valley where "Mining Hill" is located. It was suddenly discovered or at least announced that the hill contained valuable deposits of gold and a large price was demanded. The hill is now a thickly wooded island at the south end of Merimere.

From what has been here recorded, it can readily be seen that Meriden had

1 Wallingford land records, Vol. XV., p. 587.

2 Idem, Vol. XIII., p. 231.

3 Idem p. 230.

quite a mining craze for a number of years and much money must have been lost in the ventures, for no Calumet and Hecla plum ever dropped into the pockets of Meriden's homespun coats and trousers.

A curious inference relative to the name Hanover may be drawn from the copper mining industry on Milking Yard Hill, now a part of Walnut Grove cemetery. This name was adopted for the village of Falls Plain, now South Meriden, in the year 1832. Dr. Davis says in his History of Wallingford and Meriden[1] that the name was decided on by the proprietors of the augur factory, and the result was announced to the people by Dr. Isaac I. Hough, on June 6, 1832. This is doubtless so; but perhaps the name has an older pedigree than one might be led to believe by this statement. It is a fact that the workmen engaged in the copper mining industry in this colony were mostly Germans. This was the case in the Belcher mines in Wallingford and also in Simsbury, now Granby. In Phelps' History of Simsbury, Granby and Canton[2] the names of three of these Germans are preserved viz: John Sydervelt, Caspar Hoofman and John Christian Müller. Very close to the mines in that town were the smelting works where the ore was crushed, refined and smelted and the locality was called Hanover, because these Germans lived there, and the name of a large German city was used to describe the settlement just as to-day we frequently employ the name Dublin to designate a colony of Irishmen.

The copper mining industry in Meriden was located on the hill just east of Falls Plain and it does not take a large share of imagination to fancy that while Hanover was formally adopted in 1832 to describe the new village, it may really have been in use for a long time previously and applied to a locality in the immediate vicinity, just as the name Meriden, which belonged originally to the large farm in the northern part of this town, was formally adopted in 1729 for the whole parish.

PHYSICIANS.

While the practice of medicine cannot perhaps be called an industry, but rather a science and a profesion, still it is always an important part of the daily life of every community, and the proper place to treat of the early medical practitioners of Meriden would naturally seem to fall into that chapter devoted to the home life, industrial pursuits and avocations of the people.

Incidentally two or three early physicians have been mentioned. The pioneer Dr. Ebenezer Cooper, is first heard of in Meriden in 1724 when, in partnership with a Samuel Butler, he bought of John Cole, the Boston schoolmaster, a tract of 350 acres on the west side of the Country road north of the farm of Bartholomew Foster.[3] This land they sold to Robert Collins, of Middletown, on May 30, 1727.

1 Page 162.
2 Page 117.
3 Wallingford land records, Vol. V, p. 15.

Dr. Cooper must have lived on this farm for his name occurs in a list of Meriden petitioners in 1725.[1] He next bought a small tract in the southeastern part of the town and the house of Wm. B. Rice, corner of Paddock and Miller avenues, occupies the site of the homestead of Dr. Cooper. He died in 1742 and was survived by his widow, Thankful. She was appointed administratrix of his estate at a probate court held on May 8, 1742, in New Haven, and an inventory was then filed which included the following items:

House and lot: a great Bible: an old Bible: 5 books of sermons: a testament and psalter: 1 sermon, 7 paper books, a book of authors and a dictionary; sundry bottles: phials and apothecary things: a lignum-vitae mortar & pestle: 1 p^{r} small scales, box and weights: 3 seives: 3 Lances and 2 glasses.

The estate was found to be insolvent and in the Colonial Records of Connecticut[2] at the May session appears the following:

"Upon the memorial of Thankful Cooper, administratrix on the estate of Doctor Ebenezer Cooper, late of Wallingford, deceased, shewing this Assembly that the debts due from said estate surmounts the moveable estate the sum of two hundred twenty six pounds eighteen shillings, and a penny: and praying for liberty to sell lands &c."

The court empowered Capt. Samuel Hall to dispose of so much of the real estate as was necessary and he sold the homestead to Enos Curtis: he in turn on Dec. 17, 1744, sold to David Ives "1¼ acres with a dwelling house, barn, well and pump, standing thereon, being the homestead the late Dr. Ebenezer Cooper last dwelt in: bounded west by Divan Berry north by Benj. Ives and east and south by highways."[3] Doubtless, the old physician lies buried in the cemetery on Meeting House Hill.

The second physician, Dr. William Hough, has been mentioned so often and so recently that it hardly seems necessary to add to what has been said except to note that he was a brother of James Hough, who owned the grist and saw mills where Baldwin's Mills are now situated. He was born in a house which stood somewhere on the farm now called the Joseph Hough property just within the Wallingford line and south of the Yale farms on Yale avenue. Dr. Hough left more mining impressions on the old records than medical memories in the parish. He was the uncle of Daniel Hough, as has been mentioned. He removed to Cheshire parish and later to Haddam; he was living in the latter place in 1755.

Of the third physician, Dr. Alexander Wolcott, a few notices have appeared. He owned a farm here in 1735 through the heart of which ran Gravel street. It

1 Dr. Davis' History, p. 144.
2 Vol. VIII., p. 523.
3 Wallingford land records, Vol. XI., p. 272.

is not certain that he lived here; at any rate for a very short time only; a brief sketch of him appears on page 112.

Of the fourth physician, Dr. Isaac Hall, considerable is known. He is called by Mr. Perkins and Dr. Davis, Meriden's first physician. This was, doubtless, because the others had died or moved away so very long ago that all memory of them had been utterly lost, even in the time of Dr. Isaac I. Hough, who doubtless gave Mr. Perkins some of his facts.

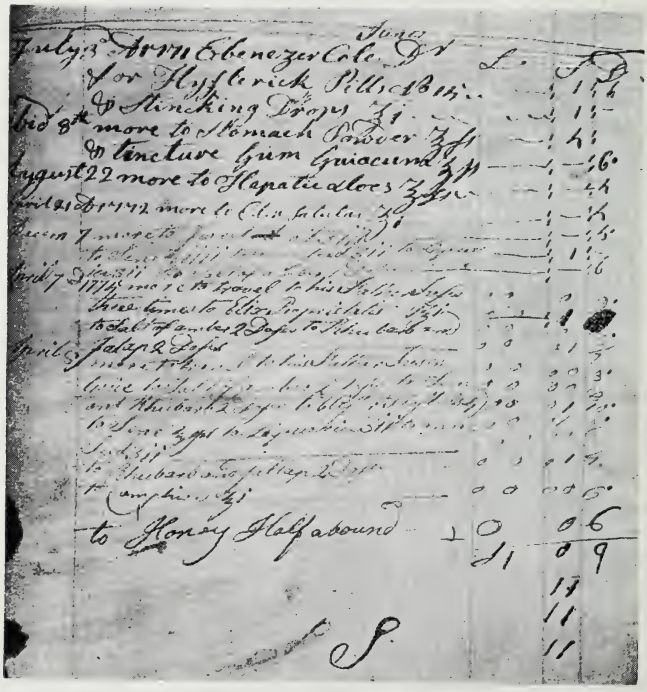
Dr. Isaac Hall was the son of Jonathan Hall and was born probably in the village of Wallingford on July 11, 1714. He married Nov. 5, 1739, Mary Moss. The writer cannot find that he owned land in the parish of Meriden until Oct. 13,



ISAAC HALL, OR ROLLIN S. IVES HOUSE.

1758, when he bought of Ephraim Hough, eight acres of land at Dog's Misery and doubtless built his house at that time which stood perhaps two hundred feet north of the present home of Rollin S. Ives, on Paddock avenue. The old site can still be seen at the corner where Misery Bar road bends to the northeast. It is said that the road has been changed and that it formerly ran just east of this house. Mr. Ives' house is said to have been built by Isaac Hall, the son of the doctor, perhaps about the year 1770. It is a dignified old farmhouse, large and commanding, and is in an excellent state of preservation.

The writer has had the privilege of a careful examination of an old account book[1] once kept by Dr. Hall. A portion only is left, but sufficient to show that his practice took him at various times to Cheshire, Guilford, Westbury, Middletown, Middlefield, Northford, Durham and even Hebron. His charge always included travel to the patient which varied according to the distance. In Meriden the item is usually charged at one shilling. The medicine was a separate item, and included such drugs as elixir camphire, hypochondriac pills, universal pills, Warwick powders, Elixir Proprietatis (commonly called nowadays Elixir Pro.), Bit-



PAGE FROM ISAAC HALL'S ACCOUNT BOOK.

ter powder, stinking drops (probably asafetida), rhubarb, contrayerva, viperane, salts of amber, etc. Among the list of patients we find the names of Deacon Ebenezer Cowles on Oxhill, Stephen Perkins, whose house stands at the corner of Parker avenue and Ann street, William Merriam of Pilgrims' Harbor, Lazarus Ives, Samuel Penfield, John Hall, Elisha Scovill and Daniel Baldwin.

Now and then he bleeds a patient, and finally we encounter an entry that fairly takes the breath away when we remember that in those days no merciful anaesthe-

1 Through the courtesy of Ives W. and his sister, Miss Ellen Hart.

sia had been discovered to comfort the poor sufferer. On September 17, 1770, he was called to the home of Ebenezer Hubbard, of Middlefield, for which he charged "travel 4s" and then comes the gruesome item "to burning his wifes cancer twice 1s." This probably involved nothing more or less than searing it with a red hot iron.

In those days smallpox was dreaded even more than it is to-day; one terrible scourge devastated the parish of Cheshire in 1732 when eighteen people died in a few weeks. The disease was always a possibility and every known precaution was used to avoid it. The usual remedy for rendering a person immune was inoculation and it was a custom to form neighborhood parties and take the infection together. In the Oliver Rice homestead is preserved a recipe to be taken during inoculation, of which the following is a copy:

"A Receipt for the preparation for the Small Pox

Take one Pound of Blue Flagg root pound it well boil it in a Gallon of Water to a paste, strain it through a lawn, then add to its fourth Manna, then half the Whole Castle soap Mix it well and make into Pills somewhat less than a small pea—A Dram is a dose for a grown Person—Take a Pill each morning after Innoculation till the Symptoms come on."

In the Connecticut Journal for Jan. 31, 1793, appears the following advertisement:

"Inoculation. The Subscribers beg leave to inform the public That they are carrying on the business of Inoculation at the house of Col. Isaac Cook, a place extremely well situated for the purpose about one mile east of the meeting house—Any person desirous of receiving the infection may depend on the utmost punctuality and attention by their most obedient servants

Aaron Andrews and
Bilious Kirtland"

"Wallingford Jan 22 1793"

The writer has been told that Dr. Isaac Hall for a time carried on an inoculating establishment in a house that once stood on High Hill in the southeastern part of Meriden.

He died March 7, 1781. His inventory included

Books on Physick,	£18 2 0
Medicines and bottles,	£20 0 7

His son Jonathan was also a physician and probably practiced for a short time in Meriden and removed to New Hartford, N. Y., in 1787.

In the Middlesex Gazette, under date of March 16, 1793, appears the following notice:

"Inoculation—The subscribers who the last season, inoculated in company for the Small Pox, are now carrying on the same in the eastern part of Meriden, six miles west of this city (Middletown) at Matthew Yales House, very convenient for that purpose. The same successful method will still be pursued—whoever wishes to receive the Infection by Inoculation, will have the closest Attention paid them, by the Publics humble servants John Dickinson
Middletown Jan 12 1793 William B. Hall

N. B. Apply to said Dickinson or Hall, in this city or at Brenton Hall's Esq near the Pest House."

There is a tradition in the Julius Hall family that there was formerly a pest house located on High Hill road a little east of its junction with Thorp avenue, and it probably was the house mentioned in the advertisement. Brenton Hall's home was in the extreme eastern part of Meriden, and to a person in Middletown it would be near the pest house.

The introduction of vaccination in Meriden took place in 1814.[1] At a town meeting held April 23rd of that year it was "voted to appoint a committee of two persons in each district to introduce the kine pock innoculation into this town.

Dr. Isaac I. Hough and Dr. Theophilus Hall for the Center district.
Partrick Clark and Matthew Foster, N. W. district.
Phinehas Hough and Eleazer Scovel, N. E. district.
Samuel Baldwin, Jr., and Ira Hall, E. district.
Othniel Ives and Ivah Curtis, S. E. district.
Ichabod Wood and Moses Cowles, S. W. district.
Dan Andrews and Levi Allen, W. district.
John Plymert, Plymert district.

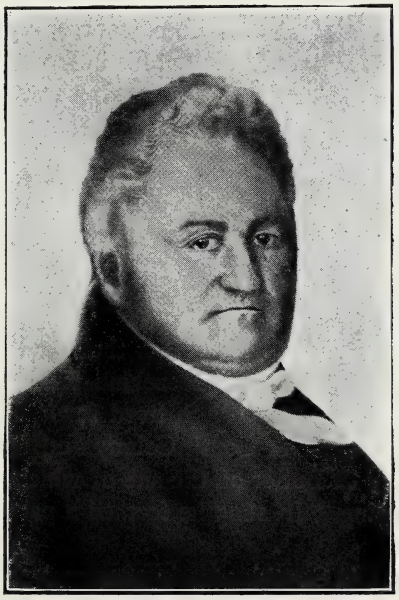
Voted That any person who is inoculated in this town for the Kine Pock by Dr Fancher may have the priviledge of being innoculated for the Small Pox free of expense under the Superintendance of Physicians of this town."

Dr. Theophilus Hall was a grandson of the Rev. Theophilus and was born in Meriden April 20, 1773. He married Mar. 24, 1803, Bethia, daughter of Ephraim and granddaughter of Benjamin Merriam, whose farm house stood where the Meriden House is located. He occupied the parson's old homestead. Not

1 In Dr. Rufus W. Matthewson's address at the 86th Annual Meeting of Middlesex Co. Medical Soc. in April 1877 it is stated that "in 1801, a few months after 1st vaccination on this Continent, Dr. Jonathan Hall with Dr. Insign Hough introduced vaccination in this vicinity beginning with a Mr. Paddock of Meriden and a Mr. Bradley of Middletown, who were induced to become subjects for experiment and in view of the uncertainty of the results the physicians agreed to attend the men each on alternate days for 3 weeks."

much is known of his life here and he died at the age of 42 on Sept. 26, 1815, in Lenox, Mass., where he had gone on a visit.

Dr. Insign Hough, son of Daniel, the blacksmith, was born in the old house at the corner of Ann and Curtis streets on Sept. 1, 1746, and began to practice in 1769. In 1792 he bought of the heirs of Samuel Hall the house which he soon turned into an inn, known at first as Hough's tavern and later as Central tavern or hotel, which stood at the corner of Broad and East Main streets, and now replaced by the residence of Francis Atwater. Here he combined the professions of medicine and tavern-keeping. He was successful in both callings. He had apparently retired from business of all kinds some time before his death in 1813, his mantle falling on his son, Dr. Isaac I. Dr. Insign has been described as of a genial and lively disposition, and quite slight in body, although his son was a man of enormous proportions, weighing at one time fully 350 pounds.[1]



DR. ISAAC I. HOUGH.[2]

Dr. Isaac I. Hough was a man of influence in the community, entering largely into the industrial enterprises of the town, and his success as a physician was excellent. His face indicates character and strength, and his enormous bulk is in evidence in the portrait. He was born in 1781 and never married. He died in Meriden Feb. 26, 1852. Many people still living remember the bluff old doctor and his kindly ways. His size made it necessary that every article of furniture he used should be built especially for him. His chair was so large that an ordinary person was lost in it. If calling on any one he always found it necessary to have two chairs to sit in. His coffin was made several years before his death and stored in a loft in his carriage house. Many anecdotes are still told of him and the following is a good one on the doctor: His friend Captain Roswell Cowles occupied a house that stood on the site of the old town hall; he was a mason builder and also made the tombstones of the town, his stoneyard being located on the site of the George R. Willmot place, on the opposite side of Main street. One day in

1 Mrs. Breckenridge in her Recollections of a N. E. Town writes entertainingly of her grandfather, Dr. Insign, and her uncle, Dr. Isaac I. Hough.

2 From an oil painting in the possession of Miss Ida C. Tibbals.

passing the place, Dr. Hough saw the captain standing in his stoneyard, and drawing up his horse to the side of the road, began to chat, and finally remarked, "Well, Captain, I suppose you keep a stone for each person in town, duly inscribed with the name, and date of birth, and are only waiting to fill in the date of death." "Yes," said the captain, "that's right, but in the case of your patients, I can calculate the date of death so closely that it isn't necessary to leave it blank."

His tavern at the corner of Broad and Main streets was a famous place, and known the country round; it stood just half way between Hartford and New Haven on the old turnpike, and was the headquarters for stage coach passengers, for here horses were changed and a stop was made for meals, and his acquaintance with travelers, of course, was large and he knew many of the prominent figures of this and other states. Although, of course, liquor was dispensed at his bar he never drank himself, and, in fact, used his influence to dissuade others from the practice. In Dr. Davis' History of Meriden is a verse that was composed and told to the doctor to his great enjoyment.

"Dr. Hough, he keeps good stuff,
And lives just under the steeple
By hook or by crook, he keeps his good looks
And takes the cash from the people."

It was largely through Dr. Hough's efforts that the turnpike from Meriden to Middletown was built in 1809; he and Hezekiah Rice of the latter place being the incorporators. Late in life Dr. Hough lived for a short time in what is now known as the Rogers' block, corner South Colony and Main streets. He died in the house owned by Henry C. Butler on the site of which dwelling now stands the First National Bank building. In 1825 he formed a partnership with Dr. Wyllys Woodward.

Dr. Woodward was born in Southington in 1801 and graduated from Yale Medical school in 1823 and soon after located in Meriden. He died Mar. 31, 1842.

The following is a list of physicians who succeeded those named, and while they were of a considerably later date, still it is so long since they were among those living that the present generation has almost forgotten them.

Succeeding Dr. Woodruff was Dr. Benjamin Catlin, for nearly forty years active in this community, and one of the foremost citizens of the town. Dr. Wm. H. Allen was a conspicuous figure during the decade from 1840 to 1850 and Dr. Gardner Barlow from 1845 to 1850 is still remembered by many of the older inhabitants. Dr. Edward W. Hatch for a number of years, until 1858, was an active practitioner, when he became superintendent of the State School for Boys. In. 1850 Dr. Timothy F. Davis began to practice in the town and for eighteen years was an active and prominent physician.

In or about the year 1850, Dr. H. A. Archer moved to Meriden and at first located in the house now occupied by Dr. Tait. He became well known in the community and afterwards moved to the old Robt. Royce place in South Farms, where he continued his profession.

In the issue of the Connecticut Whig April 7, 1854, appears the prospectus of the Meriden Water Cure Company. The responsibility for the institution was Dr. Archer's but John, Charles and Edmund Parker and others were financially interested in the undertaking, and the sanatorium was located in the present homestead of Dr. Tait. A start was made with a flourish of trumpets and much was expected of the hospital, but the project was short-lived and soon died a natural death.

Dr. Grove Herrick Wilson came here during the hard times of 1857 and soon built up a lucrative and successful practice, and the balance of his life was passed in Meriden. He was of the homeopathic school.

Dr. Asa H. Churchill came here in 1858, and for many years was in active practice, but during the latter part of his life practically gave up his profession and followed another calling. Dr. Chas. J. Mansfield was a physician here for many years with a very large and lucrative practice and had a host of friends and followers. He died a comparatively young man a few years ago.

Dr. John Tait has been active in the practice of his calling for more than fifty years in this town, and from 1854 to 1870, Dr. James Wylie, a brilliant and tireless physician, ministered to a host of people, many of whom still remember his successful career. Dr. N. Nickerson, a faithful and conscientious physician, who, although still with us, came here long enough ago to be classed among these mid-century physicians, is too well known to need extended comment.

Biographies of other physicians of more recent date will be found in another part of this volume.

CHAPTER XIV.

As has been already stated, it is not probable that there was ever an Indian settlement in any part of the territory of Meriden. Nevertheless, Indians frequently resorted here for game, and in journeying from the Tunxis Valley or the country about Hartford to the waters of the Sound at New Haven, they followed a trail which led through this valley in the general line of Colony street.

There were, however, Indians living in Meriden after it had become a separate parish—probably a few stragglers from some tribe, perhaps of the Quinnipiacs at East Haven. There is a tradition in the Julius Hall homestead on Murdock avenue, that during cold weather two or three of these stragglers were in the habit of coming to the home of Daniel Hall, the first of Wallingford's pioneers in the Dogs' Misery Country, and asking to be allowed to warm themselves before the white man's fire. These red men were said to live somewhere northwest of the old homestead.

Mention has been made of a large bowlder lying on the bank of Harbor Brook about a quarter of a mile east of Gravel street, which is called Phebe rock. It is said to be so named because the phebe birds build nests in the crevices of the rock.

But there is a deed on file in the Wallingford land records[1] which indicates that the word Phebe formerly was used to locate a certain tract of land in the vicinity of this rock. It was a part of the Penfield farm that had previously been the property of Dr. Alexander Wolcott. Nathaniel Penfield on Mar. 16, 1774, leased to Joseph Shaylor, a tract of land containing one acre and ninety rods that was bounded west on what is now Gravel street and east on Phebe Quivê land. At that time there was no one in the parish of Meriden of that name owning land, and never had been. Besides, this strip of land was wholly in the farm of Nathaniel Penfield; his neighbor on the east being Daniel Baldwin. This name sounds very much like that of an Indian. Two or three persons whose opinions are of weight in such matters were consulted and each one thought it the name of an Indian woman. Now was there ever in Meriden an Indian woman named Phebe? The records of Rev. Theophilus Hall were consulted, and the suspicion was confirmed. In his record of baptisms are found the following entries:

"May 9 1737 Baptized Phebe an Indian woman privately upon a sick bed."

On May 14, 1737, in the parson's record of deaths appears:

"Died Phebe an Indian Woman in my house."

1 Vol. 19, p. 445.

On Feb. 20, 1744, the following entry was made:

"Died Phebe an Indian child in my house." Doubtless, a child of the first Phebe.

The day after the death of the first Phebe occurs:

"May 15 1737 Baptized my Indian children Patience and Anthony."

Again on Dec. 27, 1741:

"Died an Indian child at Mr Sanfords."

While one person's opinion is as good, perhaps, as another's in such a question, where absolute proof is impossible, still there is a very plausible inference suggested by these facts.

While probably phebe birds build nests around the lonesome old rock, still they cannot have given the name of Phebe Quivê to the land adjoining. The fancy is liable to arise in one's mind that an Indian woman of this name was a squatter on the land, that she became very ill and that the good parson went to see her and told her of the danger of death without faith in Christ and signalizing that faith by the act of baptism; that then he took her from her rude shelter to his house where she died five days later, but not until she had his promise to baptize her children, which he proceeded to do the day after her death.

Children for years have been in the habit of going to this rock on excursions. Perhaps they used to visit the Indian woman there in the old days, and the survival of the custom was simply a habit, for children are always imitative and like to do what their predecessors have done. It is possible with such suggestions to let one's imagination run riot; it is a harmless form of amusement, but as these annals should deal only with actual facts as recorded, it is beyond the province of the writer to attempt to weave a romance.

In the vicinity of New Haven at the time Wallingford was settled, viz. 1670, there lived an Indian named Rum Tom. He seems to have been a peculiar old fellow who was always getting into trouble through his love of firewater. There are several entries on the records of the county court of his being brought before the grand jury on the charge of drunkenness and wanton mischief. His invariable plea was that some white man had sold him either "cyder" or rum, and that he had partaken of it intending no harm. Both the white man and Rum Tom were invariably fined and commanded to do so no more. On one occasion he very nearly caused the death of Isaac Royce, of Wallingford, who afterwards owned a large tract of land at Milking Yard or Royce's farms. We will let Isaac tell his own story as he did to the court on Nov. 8, 1676.

"Isaac Royce of Wallingford complained y^{t} as he was going home the 6th this instant betweene Sunsett and day light shutting in he saw fire upon the playnes

& coming towards it & pretty neare there was a gun shott off & he heard the bullitts fly but how neare to him he knew not & it appeared to be Rum Tom as he saw after. Rum Tom being called to answer S^d That he strucke fire but he was sorry he did soe: he S^d he had drunke two cups of cydar that he scarce knew what he did: after much debate with him about it Rum Tom was dismist & ordered to pay Isaac Royce for his dayes attendance & charge at the ordinary."

This was positively Rum Tom's last appearance, and the facts above recorded comprise all the information the writer has been able to glean relating to Indians in Meriden and Wallingford.

NEGRO SLAVES.

There is no fact in our early history more difficult to realize at this day than that our ancestors were holders of negro slaves and that they bought and sold them as they did horses and cattle.

Any one, however, who burrows among ancient papers and documents is liable at the very beginning of his researches to run against the evidence so forcibly, and the facts accumulate so rapidly that he is soon almost persuaded that all the early property owners were slaveholders.

Such is not the case, however, but slaves were sufficiently numerous in Meriden and Wallingford as elsewhere in Connecticut, to make this phase of colonial life a very interesting one. It was a general custom all over the country and indeed wherever the negro was domiciled.

The earliest record that the writer has been able to discover of a negro slave belonging to a Meriden man is contained in the will of that "trusty friend," Nathaniel Royce, dated April 1, 1718, and proved in the probate court on June 15, 1726. One clause in the will bequeaths to his wife his negro woman.

The records of vital statistics kept by Rev. Theophilus Hall abound in baptisms of the children of negro slaves, and in accounts of deaths and burials.

They were as carefully recorded as those relating to white people, although with perhaps a little less dignity. For instance, we meet with such entries as "March 1 1741 baptized London servant of John Webb," "Sept 12 1742 baptized Primus servant of Lazarus Ives," "April 24 1748 baptized negro child of John Merriam." There are just twenty of these entries.

The parson also recorded the deaths or burials of thirty-four negro servants entered as, for instance:

"1737 Aaron Lymans negro."
"May 7 1741 Dyed Eben^zr Sanfords negro boy."
"October 1746 two negro twins of Lemuel Hough."
"Dec 20 1746 London servant to John Webb."

"June 8 1758 my negro child Gin."
"June 29 1758 my negro child Rose."

On the other hand although the baptisms and deaths are so carefully entered, one will look in vain in Mr. Hall's notes for a record of the marriage of a negro couple. In fact, there are only three or four such notices in the town records of Wallingford. Perhaps slave couples were married by a justice of the peace, but that there was a marriage service is beyond question. That the marriage was performed in a different manner from those of white people might seem possible if one can believe that there is a kernel of truth in the following tradition:

Noah, the ancestor of Julius Yale, was the owner of a slave named Chatham Freeman, who earned his freedom by serving in the place of his master, as a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The story goes that when he at last became a free man he told his former master that he "wanted to be married just like white folks." According to the Wallingford records, Noah Yale emancipated Chatham, his wife Mercier and child Jube on April 29, 1782.

Some little time after the marriage he came to Mr. Yale and said he wanted to be "unmarried as I never can stand it to be married to that woman." On being told that there was no remedy—that now he was married he must stay so, he went away exclaiming, with uplifted hands, "Oh Massa what I gwine do, what I gwine do?" Chatham afterwards made the best of his bargain, became a land-owner and lived in a house that formerly stood on Paddock avenue just north of the driveway leading to the house of Charles Z. Murdock. Another negro named Cato Freeman, perhaps a brother of Chatham, lived in a house just over the line in Wallingford, on Misery road. Its site is now occupied by the homestead of John Francis. Fowler's "Historical Status of the Negro in Connecticut," has this to say:

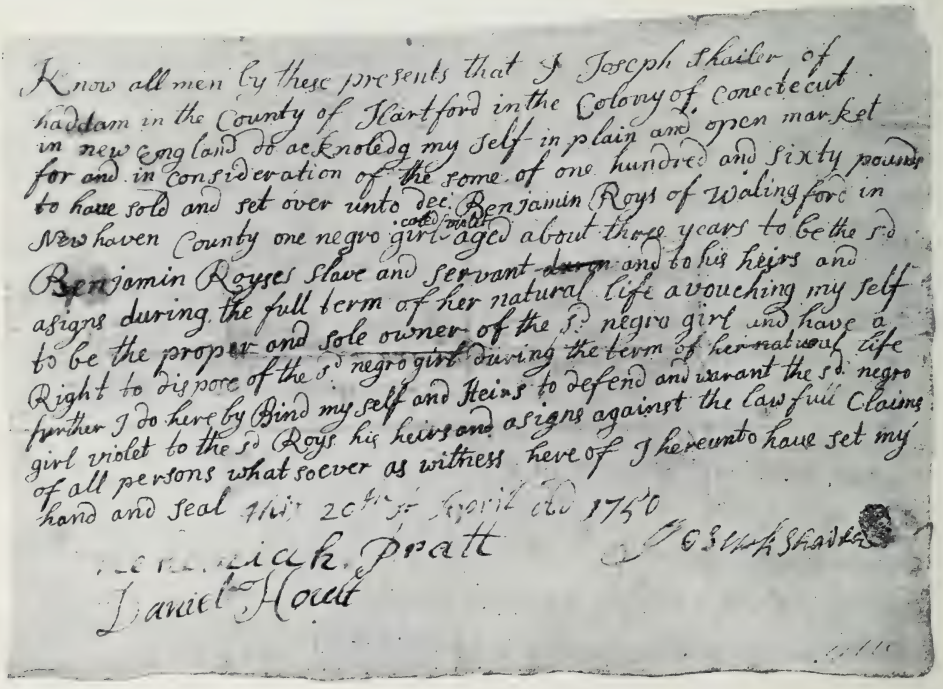
"Pews were set apart for the negroes in the meeting-houses, where they generally were present; they were often questioned about the sermon heard on the Sabbath. They joined the church, if qualified; their children were often offered in baptism, by their believing masters or mistresses. They were encouraged to marry and rear families. Some of these facts I get from ancient church records; some from tradition; and some from statements which I heard, when young, made by owners of slaves, or by those who were bred up in families with them. In some of these records of baptisms and marriages, the names of the negro children and the names of their masters and mistresses who offered them in Baptism, are given; and the names of their masters and their consent to the marriage, are given."

The negro was bought and sold without the dignity of a record of the event on the town books. He passed with the delivery of a bill of sale, which was considered sufficient evidence of the new ownership.

The following is a copy of a document that is preserved in the Oliver Rice homestead:

"Bond to fulfill Indenture

I the subscriber Silas St John of Sharon do Promise and oblige myself and heirs to fullfill in every particular a certain Indenture Dated Sept. 21 1758 whereby George Trashen a Malato Boy is Bound to Ezekiel Rice Esq[r] Late of Wallingford Deceased and to his Heirs the said servent falling into my hands by Heirship and other Contracts, I stand Obliged & bound to fulfill to said servent


Know all men by these presents that I Joseph Shailer of Haddam in the County of Hartford in the Colony of Conecticut in new England do acknoledg my self in plain and open market for and in consideration of the some of one hundred and sixty pounds to have sold and set over unto dec. Benjamin Roys of Walingford in New haven County one negro girl aged about three years to be the s[d] Benjamin Royses Slave and servant during and to his heirs and asigns during the full term of her natural life avouching my self to be the proper and sole owner of the s[d] negro girl and have a Right to dispose of the s[d] negro girl during the term of her natural life further I do here by Bind my self and Heirs to defend and warant the s[d] negro girl violet to the s[d] Roys his heirs and asigns against the Lawfull Claims of all persons what soever as witness here of I hereunto have set my hand and seal this 20th of April Ano 1760

Ezekiel Pratt

Joseph Shailer

Daniel Hoult

BILL OF SALE OF SLAVE GIRL.

when he arives to the Age of freedom all the perticulers mentioned in said Indenture and Indemnify all the Heirs of the estate from any burden or charge from that quarter, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand the 3[rd] day of March 1767 Silas St John"

Ezekiel Rice
Ezra Rice
Esther Blakslee"

The above is a fac-simile of a bill of sale preserved in a Meriden household.

The following appears in Dr. Davis' history:

"Middletown July 8, 1760

Received of Abel Curtis (of Meriden) Forty Pounds In full of a negro Boy Called Ben, about nine years old, which s[d] Negro Boy I Promis to warrant and Defend against all Lawful Claims & demands of any Person whatsoever as witness my hand.

George Phillips"

The laws of the colony relating to slaves were very strict. Granted the existence of slavery, such laws are absolutely necessary for the preservation of the institution, for a slave is a species of property that can steal itself.

"No negro, mulatto or Indian servant" could go from one town to another without a ticket or pass in "writing under the hand of a Magistrate or the owner of the slave." If the slave could not show such ticket on demand he or she was treated as a runaway and was seized and returned to the owner. No slave was allowed to be absent from home after nine o'clock at night without a special order from the master or mistress. No free negro was allowed to travel without he or she had a certificate testifying to such condition of freedom.[1] The state of the poor negro slave was certainly not an enviable one.

And yet notwithstanding these various laws and restrictions they were treated with much kindness and consideration. It was not an uncommon act for a master to embody a clause in his will making his slaves free, and even distributing a certain amount of the estate for the support of the slave or freedman. Capt. Titus Brockett, of Wallingford, who died in 1773, by the terms of his will, gave his slaves, Esau and Grace, their freedom after the death of his widow, and the widow, Mary, at her death in 1777, left for the support of the dusky couple the use of her homestead so long as they should live, together with cows, household furniture and farming utensils.

The Rev. Samuel Hall, of Cheshire, who died in 1776, willed his negro slave, Charles, to his widow to wait on her as long as she should live and when she should die Charles was to choose which son he would live with and if not able to earn his living, some of the parson's property was to be used for his support.

Capt. John Webb, who died in 1799, left to his servants, Daffy and Joe, whom he had previously emancipated, a considerable amount of property for their support. Joe and Daffy Prinn afterwards lived in a house on Paddock avenue on the east side of the street a number of hundred feet south of the turnpike. A slight depression by the roadside filled with stones still marks the site of the old house. The son of Joe and Daffy, Robin, married the daughter of Chatham Freeman and after the latter's death, he and his wife lived in Freeman's old house, near

1 Acts & Laws of His Majesty's Colony of Conn. Ed. 1769.

the entrance to Mr. Murdock's driveway. A son of Chatham Freeman, Lemon, lived in a house that formerly stood near the north end of Swayne avenue. Lemon's son Richard died in this house some fifteen years ago. There are still many people who can remember Robin Prinn, who was once in great demand on many occasions, for he and his violin were famous the country round.

But, notwithstanding the general kindness with which the negro slave was treated, he yearned for freedom and once in a while took French leave and set out for "fresh woods and pastures new." It must have been difficult for the fugitive to get away to any distance, and even if he gained the shelter of another colony he was again liable to be impressed into new service and virtually kidnapped. As soon as the master was aware that his servant had run away he hastened to the nearest town where a newspaper was published, and inserted an advertisement. One of the earliest of these notices inserted by a Wallingford man appears in the Connecticut Gazette under date of Oct. 21, 1758, and reads as follows:

"Run away from Nathaniel Curtis of Wallingford 3 weeks ago a negro man named Jack aged about 23 or 24 years mark'd with the small-pox, a middling stature strong and well set, can read and talk good English. He had on a blue home-spun cloth coat. Whoever will bring home the said negro & secure him and give notice to the subscriber so that he may get him again shall be handsomely rewarded besides all necessary charges paid by

Nathaniel Curtis"

"Wallingford Oct 6 1758"

In the Connecticut Journal of Nov. 5, 1777, is the following:

"Twenty dollars reward. Run away from the Subscriber of Wallingford on the night after the 27th instant a Mulatto Boy, named Adam about 20 years old, about 5 feet 6 inches high. well made except his right leg crooking in, talks good English, and can write and read and its probable may have forged a pass: had on and with him when he went away a beaver and felt hat, 2 checkt shirts, one woolen, the other linen, two pair shoes, A Rifle Frock, a brown homespun vest, and an old red Duffil Great Coat. Whoever will return said boy to the Subscriber, shall be entitled to the above Reward and all necessary charges paid by

Elihu Hall"

"Wallingford Oct 28 1777"

As already noted, Parson Hall had five slaves, and a story has come down to the present day, which is without much doubt, based on fact. In the days when the parish still worshipped in the little church on Meeting House hill, the parson was the owner of a slave who was surly and unruly and whom it was sometimes necessary to chastise. One Sunday morning the parson was obliged to whip this negro, and then went to his duties at the church. Some one saw what looked like

a fire at Mr. Hall's house which could be easily seen from the church. So the congregation hastily adjourned and on reaching the house found that the surly negro had set fire to a hay rick closely adjoining it. For a time it looked as if the house would be destroyed but by hard work it was saved. A short time after, this negro climbed into a chestnut tree in the southern part of the farm, and falling, broke his neck.[1]

In the Connecticut Journal for April 22, 1774, we read that "Last Wednesday Lemon, a negro slave (owned by Mr John Ives of Wallingford) was brought to Gaol in New Haven for abusing an Indian Girl." On the following week "the boy was sentenced to sit on the Gallows with a rope about his neck one hour, and to be whipt 39 Stripes at a Cart's Tail. Which sentence was immediately executed."

David Cook, a man of affairs of Wallingford, who has been mentioned as a shipowner and doing a business of importing negroes to be sold as slaves, at one time got into serious difficulty with the Colonial government, through the action of his son, Phinehas, in kidnapping a swarthy white man and selling him as a negro slave. Phinehas was a sea captain and commanded one of his father's vessels. This swarthy man was a Portuguese and his story told in his own words, reads like a romance, and it would be impossible to improve by either cutting out or adding to it; so it is given as he told it to the General Assembly on February 9, 1757:

"The Memorial of Joseph Deming (otherwise called Joseph De Mink) now residing at Goshen in the county of Litchfield Humbly Sheweth—That your Memorialist was a free born Subject of the King of Portugal, a Native and an Inhabitant of the Island of Brava in the Indies one of the Cape De Verde Islands where your memorialist's Parents not Long Since were, and he hopes are yet Living. That sometime in the month of March A. D. 1755 by Leave of his Father he went to the Island of Bonavista one of the Cape de Verde Islands under the Dominion of the s^{d} King of Portugal, but a few Leagues Distance from y^{r} Memo^{lsts} Native Island. That after some Short Stay at said Island of Bonavista your memorialist was Seeking an Opportunity to return home, and falling in Company with one Mr Phinehas Cook, then Master of a Vessel lying at Anchor at said Island of Bonavista (who belonged to Wallingford in the s^{d} Colony of Connecticut) & he enformed your Memorialist that he was bound to Barbadoes, and in his Way should put in to s^{d} Island of Brava, where your memorialist was going and would freely give your memorialist a Passage home to his Parents. That when the said Cook was ready to Sail your Memorialist took Leave of his Friends and went on Board s^{d} Vessel, and within a Short Space arrived in Sight of said Island and Expected to be put on Shore, but to your memorialists amazement, the s^{d} Cooke Steered off

1 This story was told to the writer by Willard Hall and his sister, Mrs. Gallup.

and soon after arrived at Barbadoes, and there kept your Memorialist Confined & would not Suffer him to goe on Shore, and in a few Days afterwards sailed for New England. That after our Arrival at New England your memorialist was Delivered up to Mr David Cook of sd Wallingford, owner of said Vessell and Father and Employer of the s^{d} Phinehas Cook who together with the said Phinehas immediately proclaimed that y^{r} memo^{lst} was a Negro being lately brot from someparts of Guinea, and presently sold your memorialist to Mr Noah Waddams of Goshen aforesaid for a New Negro and as a Slave for Life, for the price of Fifty-two pounds ten shillings Lawful mony, with whom your memorialist has ever since Lived and Served and from whom much kindness and pitty has been Shewn. That the s^{d} Mr Waddams haveing been Long since Satisfied that your memorialist is no negro nor any Thing resembling, a Native of Guinea, saveing in his Tawny and dark Complexion which is but Common to the Portuguese Nation Especially in the Southern Plantations and being also satisfied that your memorialist was very wrongfully taken away from his Native Country and Friends and greatly grieving to retain him as a Slave while Convinced of the Fraud and Injury done him. He the s^{d} Mr Waddams did sometime in the beginning of this month of February attempt to relieve your Memorialist and to that End bro't his action against the sd David Cooke, for Selling your Memorialist being a free man, as a Slave &c. That the said Cooke being Served with the Process immediately Compounded with the said Mr. Waddams, and Obliged the said Waddams to return your memo^{lst} back to him, the Consequences whereof your memorialist greatly dreads, and has now reason to expect soon to be disposed of in some parts remote where he can have no relief.

Your Distressed Memorialist therefore begs the Speedy aid and interposal of this Honor^{ble} Assembly that your Hon^{rs} would commiserate him as a poor youth seperated from all his former Friends helpless in himself and Exposed to the Rapine conceived by y^{e} said Cooke. That your Honours would give me Leave to appear in y^{r} Presence, and to Convince your hono^{rs} by Countenance, by my Education by my proficiency in reading and writing of the Portuguese Languages and by other Evidence. That I am no Slave or Native of Guinea.

And that your Honours would Vouchsafe me the same Protection that a Subject of the King of Great Brittain could reasonably Expect from the King of Portugal, or from any of his Government with whom there has been, and with whom there hopefully may be Subsisting the most Lasting Friendship. And that y^{r} Honours would at Least appoint me a Refuge where to fly and a Guardian to undertake In my Defence, till it be Decided whether I am a free man or not or otherwise relieve your Memorialist and as in Duty bound ever prays.[1]

Thos Seymour Jun^{r}
Prochein Ami To the Memorialist"

1 Vol. 11., Miscellaneous Documents, No. 88, State Library.

As a result of this petition the General Assembly decided that De Mink was a freeman and a subject of the King of Portugal, and was brought to this country against his will, and David Cook was ordered to pay to De Mink £30 damages and £4 to pay his passage back to the Cape de Verde Island. Cook was also fined £20 and costs, and Capt. Thomas Seymour, of Hartford, was appointed guardian to De Mink to assist him in procuring passage to his native country.

Let us hope that he got safely back to his family and friends. No matter how generously a slave was treated by his master the institution was an iniquitous one and such a story as that of De Mink must have made many realize what a blight on civilization it was to hold in bondage one's fellow man even if the color of his skin was black. It is only just to David Cook to say that De Mink's story was not believed in Wallingford.

The first public condemnation of the sin of slavery made in Wallingford seems to have been contained in a sermon delivered by Rev. Samuel Andrews preached on a day of General Fast July 10, 1775. Mr. Andrews was the minister of the Episcopal church there and a pronounced Tory in his views. Speaking of one of the vices of the people in which there should be reform, he said, "And here, as we profess to be now contending for those liberties which God and nature have given us: and in common with us, to all the human race: is it not worth our serious consideration, whether our detaining in captivity, a part of our fellow creatures, can be reconciled with our principles of liberty, and if not, to examine whether it is not necessary, either to change our principles, or let the oppressed go free: for how can we expect God will work that deliverance for us, which we refuse to give to others?"

The Declaration of Independence, and the circulation among the people of the general ideas and principles of civil liberty soon made many realize the absurdity of keeping the black man in servitude. The feeling against the traffic in slaves had become so strong that at the October session of the General Assembly 1774 it was enacted that whoever "shall import or bring any indian negro or molatto slave or slaves into this Colony to be disposed of" "shall forfeit and pay to the Treasurer of this Colony the sum of one hundred pounds," and the State Assembly at the October session 1777 enacted "That if any owner of any slave shall apply to the selectmen of the town to which he belongs for liberty to emancipate such slave it shall be the duty of such selectmen to enquire into the age abilities etc of such slave, and if they are of the opinion that it is likely to be consistent with the real advantage of such slave, and that it is probable that the slave will be able to support his or her own person etc: such selectmen shall give to the owner of such slave a certificate, and that the owner of such slave hath liberty to emancipate such slave."

This was a decided step towards the gradual emancipation of all slaves. And the result was that the town books now began to bear records of slave transactions

for the first time; but instead of being transfers of the negro as a chattel, they were the blessed harbingers of the complete freedom of the negro race in Connecticut.

The Wallingford books contain many entries of the emancipation of negro slaves under the new law.

On Sept. 24, 1778, "I Rachel Johnson for divers good reasons and causes but more especially because I believe all mankind should be free I do hereby manumit my servant maid Dolly who is about 8 years of age, that is I do make her free from all bonds that she is under to me when she shall be 18 years of age."

Dec. 7, 1778, "I Ruth Merriam emancipate my woman servant Rhoda."

Aug. 19, 1778, John Hough emancipated his man servant, Cuff, and woman Kate.

May 29, 1780, Gould Gift Norton and wife, administrators of the estate of Dr. Amos Hall, emancipated negro servant Ishmael.

Nov. 26, 1780, Martha Doolittle emancipated servant Rose.

Dec. 18, 1780, Miles Johnson emancipated Phillis.

March 1, 1781, Ruth Merriam emancipated Lilly.

Mar. 26, 1781, Jno. Barker emancipated Jubie and Peter.

Jan. 10, 1782, Dr. Jared Potter emancipated Jack.

Feb. 19, 1782, Samuel Street emancipated Cuff.

June 21, 1782, Elisha Brockett emancipated Nancy.

Jan. 20, 1795, Turhand Kirtland emancipated his negro Isaac.

Aug. 6, 1795, Edward Barker emancipated Cato Warner.

Dec. 17, 1798, Abner Rice emancipated negro woman Violet.

Oct. 12, 1786, Thomas Hall made an agreement with his negro servant Cato that if in the opinion of his neighbors, David Hall, Jacob Francis and Edward Fenn, at the end of three years, he had faithfully served his master during all the interval, he would emancipate him. At the end of the three years the neighbors duly certified that in their opinion Cato had faithfully carried out his part of the contract and he was duly made free.

But death was the only emancipator of many of these faithful old servants.

The pace of the state, however, was steadily towards the freedom of the slave and in 1784 it was enacted that,

"Whereas sound public policy requires that the abolition of slavery should be effected, as soon as may be consistent with the rights of individuals and the public safety and welfare," "no negro or mulatto, born after Mar. 1, 1784, should be held as a slave after reaching the age of twenty-five."[1]

The holding of slaves was not absolutely forbidden in Connecticut until 1848.[1] In the year 1833 there was founded the New Haven Anti-Slavery Society and a

1 Steiner's History of Slavery in Conn. Johns Hopkins University Studies pp. 30-31.

missionary movement was started which caused a rapid growth of Abolition sentiment all over the state.

In the year 1836 a like society was started in this town called the Meriden Anti-Slavery Society. Its constitution stated that it was auxiliary to the American Anti-Slavery Society. It no doubt aroused a considerable local sentiment and 119 names constituted its roll of members. The leaders of the movement were evidently Walter Webb, Harlow Isbell, Fenner Bush, Zina K. Murdock, Julius Pratt, Homer Curtiss, Major Elisha A. Cowles and their wives. Mr. Curtiss had Mr. Isbell were ardent members of this society and labored earnestly in its behalf. The former was engaged to a considerable extent in the so-called "underground railroad" movement and his son, Homer A. Curtiss, remembers as a boy the midnight visits of fugitive slaves, on their way to Canada or others havens of security, requesting either a hiding place or assistance to continue their journey.

At one time two colored men named Eldridge and Jones came north as jockeys and grooms to the two famous racing horses Phantom and Fashion. On reaching Philadelphia these men were told by the Quakers that they were free under the law. They, accordingly, escaped from their masters and made their way to Meriden, and Mr. Curtiss gave them employment in his lock shop situated where the factories of Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co. are now located. Their owners later ascertained that the ex-slaves were in Meriden and wrote to the sheriff offering him a reward if he would kidnap and return them. The sheriff took the letter to Rev. Mr. Perkins who wrote them that under no circumstances would they be allowed to regain possession of the men. Soon after, one of the owners appeared in person and demanded of Mr. Curtiss that he give up the men, and blustering and threatening the intervention of the U. S. government. Mr. Curtiss was not frightened and ordered the man from his premises. No further effort was made to take the runaways but for a long time they were very timid and scarcely dared to go on the streets. They lived here many years.

Mr. Isbell was so carried away by the abolition movement that he removed to Kansas to assist in the attempt to make it a free state.

In the fall of 1837 a Rev. Mr. Ludlow was requested to deliver a lecture in the church now called the Center Congregational church, on the subject of slavery. The meeting was broken up by a mob: ancient eggs and a miscellaneous assortment of articles were thrown at those attending the lecture, until as one man who was a participant expressed it, "they looked like a lot of pumpkin pies." Blows were struck and altogether a most disgraceful attack was made on those who were laboring for the good of a down-trodden race. A full account of this riot will be found in Dr. Davis' History, p. 502

CHAPTER XV.

When Wallingford was a frontier town of three or four hundred inhabitants and New England was almost an unbroken wilderness, when a journey from Hartford to New Haven was an event to be contemplated with concern, and the forests were the abode of wild beasts and savage Indians, it is not surprising that imagination should have been active in conjuring unknown terrors and that the belief in witches, which from time immemorial had been the common heritage of the people of all lands, should have been particularly prevalent in the towns of New England.

It is difficult in this age of wide education and altruism to understand this superstition, and still harder to realize that Wallingford had its acute attack of this mental phenomenon. Hardly any one is acquainted with the facts in the case; indeed, the occurrence is barely mentioned in the "History of Wallingford and Meriden," and even then the name of the accused family is given as Denham.

Some facts relating to this case have come to the attention of the writer, and they are sufficiently interesting to be given to the public. It is best to give the names as they appear in the records, because no descendant can possibly object to such a course. It is no disgrace to have had as an ancestor one who was suspected of witchcraft. Three reasons present themselves as probable causes of suspected cases of witchcraft. Sometimes it was the unconscious homage which stupidity paid to superior ability, in other cases, the unfortunate martyr was simply a victim of a conjunction of circumstantial evidence, and, again, the results were brought about by the devious and tortuous workings of unprincipled and malicious persons. The unhappy family, which was the center of the witchcraft excitement in Wallingford, was thoroughly respectable, and we can only conjecture as to why it was the victim of this morbid superstition.

However, the witchcraft trials of Connecticut did not result in such tragedies as those of Massachusetts, which culminated in the horrors of Salem in 1692. A list of trials and executions in Connecticut can be found in Orcutt's History of Stratford and Bridgeport, p. 156. New Haven County seems to have escaped without one of these legal murders.

Among the first planters of Wallingford in 1670 was Joseph Benham, son of John Benham, an immigrant at Dorchester, Mass., in 1630. John was undoubtedly the ancestor of all the Benhams in this part of the country. Joseph married in 1657 Winifred King, of Boston, and when the homestead lots were assigned in Wallingford in 1670 he received one a little below what is now Center street, on

the east side of Main street. We know little about Joseph in his relations to his neighbors and townsmen until 1691. He seems then to have had some disagreement with the selectmen which caused him so far to forget himself that he was guilty of some rather strong expressions regarding the fitness of these gentlemen for their official positions. In those days, speaking lightly of dignitaries was not permitted; in fact, our present free and easy manner of criticizing the acts of our public servants would have been looked on with horror and as something not to be tolerated. At the County court held in New Haven June 15, 1691, Joseph Benham was presented for trial. It is better to let the records tell the story in their own quaint phraseology:

"Joseph Benham of Wallingford presented for speaking words in Reproach ag^{t} ye townsmen (selectmen) of Wallingford viz^{t} that they were noe more fit for townsmen than Doggs w^{ch} was upon ye last tuesday in Aprill and was now proved ag^{t} him in Court by 3 witnesses & ye substance of ye accusacon confest by himself for w^{ch} he was fined to pay 5^{s} into ye County treasury before ye 1st of Nov. next for his soe traducing & vilifying s^{d} townsmen."

We are not enlightened by the records as to why Joseph so far forgot himself as to make possible so serious a charge and punishment. He may have been a man of violent temper, or he may have been provoked beyond endurance by the acts and gossip of his neighbors and subsequent investigations by the "townsmen." It is somewhat difficult to-day to realize the condition under which our ancestors lived in these early Puritan days. To us now it would be intolerable. The organization of each community was aptly described by the old Puritan gibe, "The world belongs to the saints, and we are the saints," and woe betide the poor unfortunate who had fallen under the ban of his fellow church members.

"Considerations of the methods of interpreting Scripture and of theological theories which were in credit will suggest explanations of the morbid vigilance" exercised by every church association. "In those days New England men meant as they professed. Their convictions, covering the whole length and breadth of their creeds, laid a wide basis for imagination and emotion." Every one felt at liberty to spy upon the acts of his neighbor, and that this was thoroughly done no one will doubt who has made an examination of early church records. What to-day is considered the act of a scandalmonger and busybody was then felt to be the part of a conscientious man's duty. It can easily be imagined that life in such a community was not pleasant. They were a sturdy lot, and thoroughly lived up to their lights.

The next appearance of Joseph and his family was under decidedly distressing circumstances. Of course, we cannot tell whether this situation was the result of underhanded work of malicious persons, or simply an explosion of the

pent-up emotions and morbid imaginations of persons sincerely believing what they reported. Let us again turn to the records:

"At a meeting of ye authority of New Haven, 25th of July, 1692.

Joseph Benham of Wallingford appeared according to summons before ye Authority this day And being Examined upon Complaint and evidence being brought ag^{t} him that he had lately threatened to charge his gun with two Bullets & shoot Goody Parker if she come into his house about such matters or things upon w^{ch} examination he ye s^{d} Benham Confest ye s^{d} threatning words in p^{t} being as he s^{d} provoked by ye s^{d} Parkers casting some refleccons (in her speech) about witchcraft upon his wife yet not intending mischiefe to s^{d} Parker & blaming himself for his passion & such threatning expressions. The authority having considered ye case & finding (besides his p^{t} Confession) ye s^{d} threatning w^{ds} clearly proved by 2 witnesses viz^{t} Sarah How Sen^{r} & Abigaile Atwater did order ye s^{d} Joseph Benham to acknowledge him selfe & his estate bound in a Recognizance of 50^{s} to ye County treasury that he shall keepe ye kings peace towards all theire Mag^{ties} Subjects Especially ye s^{d} Joseph Parker & Hannah his wife & theire family. And his s^{d} Recognizance to stand good ag^{t} him untill November County Court next and then he to appeare for his Release as ye Court shall see Cause & in y^{e} meane tyme to pay just fees for y^{e} psecution."

Evidently Joseph did not relish the conscientious motives of his neighbors in seeking to show that his wife was in league with the devil and guilty of the monstrous crime of witchcraft. Conscious of her innocence and resenting this prying into his domestic affairs, we can easily understand the wrath of the outraged husband and his desire to plant two bullets in the body of the over-anxious Goody Parker. This Joseph Parker (whose wife was Hannah Gilbert) was a son of William Parker, of Saybrook, ancestor of all the Parkers in this vicinity.

But the gossip regarding Winifred Benham had now grown to the proportion of a great scandal, and was the subject of anxious solicitude to Rev. Mr. Street, pastor of the Wallingford church, who, no doubt, was greatly disturbed to think the devil had gained possession of the body and soul of one of his flock. At this same court, viz. 25 July, 1692:

"The Rev^{d} Mr. Street appeared before Authority & he & Mrs. Street, Deacon Hall & Goody Parker menconed many pcular things as grounds of suspicion of Witch Craft reflecting upon Goody Winifred Benham then alsoe psent whereupon the Authority desired and advised Mr. Street and others of Wallingford consernd to consid^{r} of ye matter being weighty & to p^{r}pare such evidences as could be come at for ye further discovery & conviction of ye p'ty suspected if guilt or clearing if Innocent & ye s^{d} suspected p^{r}son being a member of theire church twas left wth

Mr. Street y^{t} he & ye church should consid^{r} w^{t} did or might belong to them hoping God wold direct y^{m} on theire seeking Councill from him or w^{rds} to y^{t} purpose & soe ye matter was dismist & left till next County Court."

Doubtless the time until the November session of the court was anxiously spent by the Benham family. The whole of New England was stirred up by the terrible tragedies taking place at Salem and other towns. It was fortunate for Winifred Benham that the trial was postponed until November, for by that time a great revulsion of feeling had occurred, and ministers and magistrates were repenting bitterly the awful horrors enacted in Massachusetts. Poor Winifred was on hand in New Haven in November, and the record is as follows:

"A County Court held at New Haven the 2^{d} Wednesday in Nov 1692

Present Robt Treat Esq. Gov. W^{m} Jones Esq. Dep. Gov. Andrew Leet Assist. Capt. Moses Mansfield Mr. Thomas Trowbridge County Com^{r}

"Winifred Benham of Wallingford being sumoned to appeare at this Court for examinacon upon suspicon of Witch Craft was now present. And ye wittnesses were called to testify what they had to say in the case & accordingly gave in theire testimonyes in writing w^{ch} were Redd in ye hearing of the s^{d} Winifred. And she being called to say what she had to say for her selfe her generall Answer was that she knew nothing of ye matters testified and was not concerned therein. She alsoe gave in some testimonies for her selfe w^{ch} were Redd.

"The Court having heard & considered all ye evidences ag^{t} ye s^{d} Winifred Benham and not finding sufficient grounds of conviccon for further prosecution (at present) of ye s^{d} Winifred Doe therefore at this tyme dismiss ye buissnes yet advising the s^{d} Winifred Benham solemnly to Reflect upon ye case and grounds of suspicon given in and alledged ag^{t} her. And told her if further grounds of suspicon of witchcraft or further evidences shold appeare ag^{t} her by Reason of mischiefe don to ye bodyes or estate of any preternall acts prvd ag^{t} her she might justly feare and exspect to be brought to her tryall for it."

Presumably Joseph & Winifred breathed more freely on their return journey as they thought of the peril she had escaped. But her life in Wallingford could not have been pleasant thereafter. Her neighbors looked at her askance, and every act and word must have been scanned and twisted to suit the desires of those who sincerely believed she spent her nights riding on a broomstick in company with the devil. They had a daughter, Winifred, who must have shared much of the unhappiness of her mother's life. This strained situation continued for five years with no outbreak.

At last human nature can stand it no longer. Her neighbors are convinced that all their misfortunes are due to Winifred's intimacy with his satanic majesty. And poor little Winifred, only thirteen years old, is now believed to ride tandem

on the broomstick with her mother in her nightly peregrinations with the devil. Just try to fancy what a life this poor child must have led! On Aug. 31, 1697, all her neighbors are again in New Haven, determined that Winifred and her daughter shall surely pay the just penalty of their monstrous crimes and persecutions.

"A special County Court by order of the Gov^{r} held at New Haven the 31st of Aug^{t} 1697.

Present Robt. Treat Esq^{r} Gov^{r} W^{m} Jones Es^{q}. D. Gov^{r} Major Moses Mansfield Assist.

"Complaint being made to the Authority by Ebenezer Clark Joseph Royse & John Moss Jun^{r} all of Wallingford ag^{t} Winifred Benham Sen^{r} & Winifred Benham Jun^{r} her daughter that Sarah Clark daughter of Ebenezer Clark, Elizabeth Lathrop and John Moss son of y^{e} s^{d} John Moss Jun^{r} were frequently and sorely afflicted in theire bodys by ye s^{d} Benhams, mother & daughter or theire Apparicon and as they strongly suspect by theire means or procurance by y^{e} Devil in theire shapes. And therefore desire y^{e} Authority as Gods Ordinance for theire reliefe strictly to examine ye s^{d} suspected persons. In order to a due tryall of them y^{t} a stop may be put to theire sufferings; prevention of such mischeifes among them for the future.

"The Court having seriously considered the Accusations & Informations on good testimony given ag^{t} Winifred Benham Sen^{r} & Winifred Benham Jun^{r} upon suspicon of them for witchcraft, they or the devill in theire shapes afflicting sundry young persons above named. As formerly accused & suspected in ye yeare 1692. And finding clere & Sufficient ground of suspicon ag^{t} them after strict examination of ye s^{d} persons apart & severally see just cause to bind over the said Benhams mother & daughter to appeare at ye next Court of Asst^{s} in October next at Hartford in ord^{r} to theire further examinacon & tryall personally. And the husband of s^{d} Winifred Sen^{r} gave 40^{s} Recognizance for theire appearance accordingly or that they be secured in person for theire s^{d} tryall. And s^{d} Benham to pay ye charge of this County Court, Charges 21^{s} exem^{n} granted for s^{d} 21 shillings.

Also ye Death of s^{d} ———— young child to be inquired into wth w^{t} appeared of spotts on s^{d} child and ye like spots on s^{d} Benham quickly vanishing."

What transpired between the date of this Court and that in Hartford we do not know; but mother and daughter were quickly released when the case came to trial, as appears by the following extract from records in the office of Secretary of State in Hartford:

"Att a Court of Assistants Held at Hartford October 7th 1697 Capt Dan^{ll} Clark also at this (Court) as attorney in behafe of our Soveraign Lord the King appeared in Court and accused Winifred Benham Sen^{r} and Winifred Benham Jun^{r}

both of Wallingford for having familiarity with Sathan the enemy of God and mankind and by his aid doing many preternatural acts by mischievously hurting the bodies and Goods of Sundry persons viz^{t} of Jno Mosse Jun^{r} Joseph Roys and Ebenezer Clark with Divers others to the Great Damage and disturbance of the Public peace, &c. This bill of charge with the testimonies Relating thereunto being referred to the consideration of the Grand jury they Returned upon the bill Ignoramus." That is "not proven."

Fortunately, a more enlightened feeling had grown up in the colony, and for this reason mother and daughter were henceforth not publicly persecuted, but doubtless the memory of these terrible experiences never forsook them. From the late Dr. Charles J. Hoadley, state librarian, the writer had the assurance that this was the last witchcraft trial in Connecticut.

CHAPTER XVI.

Meriden and Wallingford in the Wars.

KING PHILIP'S WAR.

Wallingford's share in The Indian War of 1675-6, commonly called King Philip's, was doubtless thrilling to the inhabitants even though it was not sufficiently stirring to gain a notice on the records of the colony. The actual war began in an attack by the Indians on the town of Swansea in Massachusetts, just west of Fall River, on June 20, 1675. Troops were immediately raised in Boston and Plymouth and sent against the Indians, and Deputy Governor Leete of Connecticut sent men to Stonington to defend that part of the country.

As towns were sacked, inhabitants butchered, and disasters multiplied, the alarm through the New England colonies soon became general. How intense the feeling was may be gathered from the following statement in Trumbull's History of Connecticut:

"As the Indians had lived promiscuously with the English in all parts of the country, they were generally as well acquainted with their dwellings, fields and places of worship as themselves. They were perfectly acquainted with the roads, times and places of resort. They were at hand to watch all their motions, to attack them at every difficult pass and in every unguarded moment. Except some of the thickest settlements and the center of the towns, the country was a vast wilderness. This enabled the enemy, not only in small skulking parties, but in great bodies, to make their approaches undiscovered, almost to the very midst of them: and under cover of the night to creep into their barns, gardens and outhouses, to conceal themselves behind their fences, and lie in wait for them on the roads and in their fields. Sometimes they concealed themselves before their very doors. No sooner did they open them in the morning than they were instantly shot dead. While the English were hunting them in one place they would be slaying the inhabitants and plundering and burning in another."

Although the towns in Connecticut did not suffer from attacks owing to the friendly attitude of the Indians of this colony there was no telling how soon the wily King Philip would win them over by his arts and blandishments, and the towns of Connecticut knew not how soon the hurricane that had broken loose in Massachusetts would sweep into this vicinity.

The gathering storm looked ominous to the people of Wallingford and on August 27, 1675, they met in town meeting and passed the following votes:

"In respect of the present danger of the Indians it was ordered that y^e^ inhabitants secure themselves and the principall of theyre goods by fortifying about two houses w^ch^ houses are to be Mr Samuel Streets and Lieutenant Merrimans & that this work of fortifying be set upon the 28^th^ August by y^e^ whole town, & followed until it be effected & whosoever fails, to pay a fine of 5 shillings."

"Also that every man bring his armes & ammunition compleate upon the Saboth day y^t^ he may be able in a fitt posture to do service if need require."

"That y^e^ select guard serve as sentinells on y^e^ Sabath and y^e^ rest of the town ward 4 men every Sabbath and 2 every weeke day & be warned by order from y^e^ Constable by y^e^ watch & called & y^t^ they begin to ward when the watch breaks up and hold on till y^e^ watch be sett again: y^t^ they begin and end at y^e^ dawning and shutting in of y^e^ day: and y^t^ both watch & ward come to y^e^ constable and y^t^ theire arms may be viewed if they be according to law: this untill further order, provided notwithstanding y^e^ select guard is not hereby freed from warding on y^e^ weeke days: it is alsoe ordered y^t^ y^e^ drum beat at y^e^ setting and breaking up of y^e^ watch."

Sept. 23, 1675 "It was ordered y^t^ y^e^ day workers for y^e^ cutting of Brush be performed y^e^ next Monday & Tuesday being y^e^ 27^th^ & 28^th^ instants & y^e^ Drum to beat in y^e^ morning & y^e^ persons to work meet at Eleazur Peck's house & so distribute 4 parts to work at y^e^ view part of y^e^ town & y^e^ other 3 persons towards y^e^ lower end of the town & that is about y^e^ South."

"Sept 28 1675 It was ordered & agreed hoping it may be no offence to y^e^ Honorable Council that as in other towns they have abated of y^e^ number appointed for warding considering y^e^ necessities of occasions and inability to hold to ward on 4 qurts of y^e^ towne every day; we also have presumed to make some abatement for y^e^ present until more danger appears or our superiors see cause to reduce us to our former injunction."

"Oct 5 1675 It was ordered y^t^ those persons y^t^ live at that end of y^e^ towne where Mr Moss liveth viz Mr Moss Mr Brocket Serg^t^ Doolittle John Beach Sr Eliasaph Preston W^m^ Ebnatha, if they see cause to fortify any of their houses which they can agree upon for their safety in their time of danger what their first charge is shall be defrayed out of y^e^ town treasury: alsoe y^t^ any that are willing to be assistant to make flankers at Lieut. Merriman's barne shall have due recompence out of y^e^ town treasury."

"Dec 4 1675 Y^e^ towne consented to be at y^e^ charge of fortifying one house at y^e^ lower end of y^e^ towne where Serg^t^ Doolittle liveth."

"Mar 4 1675-6 these persons were allowed to belong to y^e^ lower garrison Mr. Moss Eliasaph Preston W^m^ Ebnatha John Peck Jeremiah How Saml Brockett Jabez Brocket Insign Doolittle John Beach."

"Mar 4 1675-6 Mr Moss Lieut Merriman & Benj. Lewis chosen a committee to see to the fortifications y^{t} they be made sufficient according to y^{e} true intent of y^{e} councils order Mar 3 1675-6."

During the latter part of 1676 all danger from the Indian insurrection being deemed at an end, on "Oct 4th it was agreed y^{t} all y^{e} labor that has been bestowed upon fortifications shall be waved & no account be made about them."

The back of King Philip's insurrection was broken by the terrible fight which took place in what is now South Kingston, R. I., Dec. 19, 1675. It was called the Swamp Fort fight because the Idians had erected a fortification or palisaded fort on some solid ground surrounded on all sides by a horrible swamp. No battle with the Indians fought in New England can compare with it for fierceness and bloodshed except the terrible slaughter of the Pequot Indians in 1637. In this Swamp Fort fight the power of the Indians was completely shattered in that part of the country. Eighty Connecticut men were killed and wounded in this battle, one Wallingford man, Nathaniel Merriman, Jr., apparently being among the number of those slain. Nathaniel Merriman, Sr., was made Captain of Dragoons for New Haven county on Nov. 1, 1675, at a meeting of the Governor and Council, and was probably engaged in this fight, judging by the votes of the town of Wallingford at a later date.

On Jan. 26, 1684-5, "the town showing their respect to those that were employed in the countrys service in the war do grant unto Lieut Merriman 10 acres and to the brothers of Nathaniel Merriman that was slain at the fort fight 10 acres: as to the rest of them 5 acres apiece which they are to take up together in some place viewed by the townsmen that may not be predudicial to the town, highways and other grants excepted."

Feb. 14, 1686, "the town granted to Lieut. Merriman 8 acres of his soldiers land joining to a swamp.

The town voted that John Moss, Jr., should have his 5 acres of soldiers' land in the common field."

April 9, 1688, "town granted Jabez Brocket 5 acres of land for his services in the war joining to his father's 40 acres."

Nov. 16, 1687 "town granted Samuel Brocket 5 acres of land for his service in the war joining to his swamp land."

Dec. 27, 1687, "town gave Joseph Benham, Jr., 5 acres of land for his service in the war joining to his 20 acres on the east side." "Also John Doolittle for his service in the war 5 acres at a place called Jonathan Meadow."

April 9, 1688, "town granted Roger Tyler 5 acres of soldier land."

Samuel Hough (father of James Hough who established Hough's, now known as Baldwin's Mill in the northeastern part of Meriden), was also a soldier in King Philip's war. In his will dated in 1714 he mentions his soldiers land in the Nar-

ragansett country, and in Bodge's "Soldiers in King Philip's War," his name occurs among the volunteers (No. 135)[1] who were granted land in Narragansett Township by Connecticut in 1701 as a reward or pension for services in the war. At the time of his enlistment he lived in Norwich and did not remove to Wallingford until about 1680.

From the foregoing notes the roll of honor of Wallingford men engaged in King Philip's War is made up of the following names:

Lieut. Nathaniel Merriman,
Nathaniel Merriman, Jr.,
John Moss, Jr.,
Jabez Brocket
Samuel Brocket
Joseph Benham, Jr.
John Doolittle,
Roger Tyler,
Samuel Hough

LOUISBURG EXPEDITION.

In the early spring of 1745 the New England colonies sent out the troops on the Cape Breton expedition that resulted in the capture of the strong French citadel or fortress of Louisburg and filled all the colonies with joy and exultation, and surprised the military authorities of England. The names of a few Wallingford men have been preserved who took part in the expedition. One was Nathaniel Beetle who lived in the first society and was appointed at the February session of the General Assembly, "Lieutenant of a company in the regiment of foot to be raised and sent from this government on the expedition against his Majesty's enemies at Cape Breton." Another was Samuel Royce, of Meriden parish, son of Deacon Ezekiel Royce. At the October session of the General Assembly appears the following: "Memorial of Capt. Ezekiel Royce of Wallingford praying this assembly to grant to him the sum of £26-11-3 money old tenor to be paid out of the publick treasury of this colony for that he expended the same sum on his son Samuel Royce lately arrived from Cape Breton to New London sick & there dyed a soldier in the service of this colony." The petition was granted.

On the Wallingford record of vital statistics appears the following:

"Men of Wallingford who died in Cape Breton.

Elihu Yale Dec 31 1745
Jesse Dutton Feb 4 1745-6
Thomas Hitchcock Feby 3 1745-6
Ebenezer Culver Feb 6 1745-6
Nathaniel How Feb 27 1745-6
Samuel Mott Mar 5 1745-6
Thomas Holt Feb 27 1745-6
Diodate Jones Mar 18 1745-6
Eleasaph Munson Feb 1 1745-6

1 p. 444.

FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS.

During the series of campaigns beginning in 1755 and ending in 1762, commonly known as the French and Indian Wars, Wallingford seems to have been represented, although to what extent it is impossible to state.

A number of muster and pay rolls, which narrowly escaped the junk dealer and destruction, have been printed in Volumes IX. and X. of the Connecticut Historical Society collections.

These rolls, although of course very incomplete, and a few entries on the Wallingford death records, furnish all the information we have relating to the participation of men in this vicinity, in these very important wars, which sealed the destiny of this continent so far as the influence of France was concerned, for at the close of this struggle it was settled, once and for all, that the English speaking races were to be the masters from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In the muster roll of a company under the command of Col. Elihu Chauncey, of Durham, in the year 1755 appear the following unmistakable Wallingford, Meriden and Cheshire names:[1]

Sergt. Laban Andrus	Jos. Moss
Corp. Evan Roice	Thomas Merwin
Samuel Penfield	Jacob Francis
Solomon Yale	Abr^{m} Hall
Aaron Yale	Titus Hall
Thomas Yale	Dan^{ll} Bates
Abel Curtis	John Sutliff
Joseph Waye	Elihu Atwater
Benjamin Fenn	John Hitchcock
John Davis	Elisha Steele
Hawkins Hart	Moses Beach

Street Hall, of Wallingford, was made captain of a company of Connecticut men "on the pay and encouragements"[2] of New York, in the same year, but apparently there were no men from his home town in his command.

The colonies won a rather barren victory at Lake George on September 8th and two Wallingford men met a hard fate in the field. Abijah Ives, Jr., in Major Isaac Foot's Company, lost an arm in the battle[3] and James, the son of Evan Roys[4] was killed at the same time; while Moses, the brother of Abijah Ives, Jr., died Nov. 13, 1755,[4] and Justus Kellogg[4] on Nov. 17, 1755, both in camp.

1 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. IX., pp. 48-49.
2 Idem p. 65.
3 Idem p. 87.
4 Wallingford record of deaths.

No names of Wallingford men can be found in the rolls of 1756, but in the campaign of 1757, Ephraim Preston,[1] of Wallingford, was made captain in Col. Lyman's Regiment and we find the following representatives of Wallingford or Meriden families in his command:

Ebenezer Prindle
Hezek[h] Brocket
Timothy Bristol
Ambrose London
Levi Munson
Ichabod Stark
Henry Cook

These men were in service from eight to nine months and probably were in Fort William Henry on Lake George, under the command of Col. Monroe, who was forced to surrender by the Marquis Montcalm on August 9th, for one member of the company, Israel Calkins, was carried a prisoner to France.[1]

In the same campaign was the following company from Wallingford and Meriden:

Samuel Hull, Captain [2]
Enos Brooks, Lieutenant
Ebenezer Bunnell, Lieut (of Cheshire)
Joel Holcomb, Ensign
Benj. Culver, Sergt.
Stephen Culver, Sergt.
Elnathan Ives Corp.
Isaac Roys Corp.
Joseph Miles
Daniel Doolittle
Giles Doolittle
Samuel Tyler
Thad[s] Carter
Street Yale
Amos Hosford
Charles Peck
Samuel Doolittle
Abraham Stanley
Hawkins Hart
Asa Francis
Charles Yale
Diamond Berry
Joseph Merriam
Tim[o] Roys
John Ives
Joshua Ives
Leml Collins
Ebenezer Mattoon
Elijah Scovel
Nath[l] Cook

In the campaign of 1758 when General Abercrombie made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Fort Ticonderoga, and gallant Lord Howe was killed in the first charge, there was one company present in which were a few Meriden men. Daniel Hough was ensign of Captain Wadsworth's Company and with him as a private was his future son-in-law, Benjamin Curtis, as well as Moses Curtis, who died July 21, Abraham Hall, Isaac Cook, Jr., and Benj. Rexford, [3] and the Wallingford death records give us the following information: Joseph Thorp died in battle on

1 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col., Vol. IX., pp. 192-3.
2 Idem pp. 234-5.
3 Idem Vol. X., pp. 45-6.

September 13, Dr. Jesse Lewis died in camp October 20 and Benjamin Cook died in the government service at Stillwater, N. Y., on October 28. In the same campaign Caleb Atwater was injured in Rogers' fight August 8th,[1] and Abner Curtis was in a Southington company under Captain Lewis.

In the campaign of 1759 the following Meriden men served in a company under Captain Amos Hitchcock, of New Haven; Abner Curtis, ensign; Nathaniel Yale, corporal; Ephraim Berry, Benjamin Curtis, Benjamin Rexford, Samuel Royce and Ichabod Stark.[2]

Winfield S. Curtis, of Meriden, a descendant of Abner Curtis, has in his possession an old powder horn bearing this inscription: "Ensign Abner Curtiss's[3] Horn made at Crown point Sept 26 1759." He was made ensign of 7th company in regiment of foot commanded by Nathan Whiting colonel Mar. 22, 1759 and 2d lieutenant of same regiment Mar. 24, 1760, according to commissions preserved with the powder horn. The Wallingford records tell us that Moses Doolittle died at Lake George Nov. 13, 1759. In the campaign of 1760, Abner Curtis was second lieutenant of Captain Hitchcock's company, and with him were Abraham Hall, Ephraim Berry and Ambrose London, of Meriden and Wallingford,[4] and in a Southington company under Captain Clark were Benjamin Culver, first lieutenant, Daniel Hall and Michael Mitchell and probably Ebenezer Prindle, of Meriden and Wallingford.[5]

In the campaign of 1761 Ebenezer Prindle and Waitstill Yale, of Meriden served in Captain Fitch's company and in Captain Hitchcock's company served Samuel and William Andrews and Abraham Hall[6] of Meriden. In the roll of the company it is stated that the latter man died on Sept. 17, and this statement is confirmed by the Wallingford death records.

In the campaign of 1758 a number of Meriden and Wallingford men were engaged in transporting supplies to the army at Lake George. In the issue of the Connecticut Gazette of Dec. 30 that year appears a communication reading, "whereas there has been a great number of teams employed in his Majestys service to the northward in carting, and it appears that the contractors intend that the owners of the teams shall pay for all the Indian corn and forage that they had the whole of the time * * * * * and likewise they do not intend to pay but for five days out of seven before the forces went over the Lake," etc, etc.; the letter then says that a man has been sent to Albany to find out what can be done and that all must act together, and appointing a meeting of the owners on January 10 at Mr. Hinsdale's tavern at the Great Swamp (Kensington). This letter is

1 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. X., p. 92.

2 Idem pp. 137-8.

3 Abner Curtis lived in Hanging Hills Woods district just west of the Allen farm. He removed to Farmington in 1764.

4 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. X., pp. 198-99.

5 Idem pp. 266-7.

6 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. X., p. 272.

signed by the following Meriden men: Jedediah Norton, Elnathan Ives, Timothy Foster, John Cole, Titus Ives and Edward Collins, and by Eliakim Hall, Street Hall and David Cook, of Wallingford.

The next meeting was called for February 7 at Mr. Robinson's tavern in Meriden. What was the outcome does not appear.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

These various campaigns of the French and Indian War, in which the American people had played so glorious a part, taught them their strength as a military force, trained officers and men in the game of war, and made them begin to realize, dimly perhaps, the manifest destiny that the future had in store for the American people.

Both England and the colonies had gone to great expense in prosecuting these campaigns, and although the Americans were already saddled with a great debt, England was determined to get their aid in assisting her to pay for a war, which, as her statesmen said, was waged purely for the benefit of the colonies. Consequently the stamp act was passed, and every one knows with what fury the news was received in this country.

Before the colonies knew that the obnoxious law had been repealed Wallingford freemen met in town meeting on January 13, 1766, and voted the following ringing preamble and resolution:

"Whereas it appears from ancient Records and other Memorials of incontestable Validity that our Ancestors with a great Sum purchased said Township at their own Expense, planted with great Peril, possessed and defended the same: (and we were free born) having never been in Bondage to any; an Inheritance of inestimable Value.

Voted and Agreed, that if any of said Inhabitants shall introduce, use, or improve any stampt vellum, parchment or Paper, for which Tax or Tribute is or may be demandable, such Person or Persons shall incur the Penalty of 20^{s}—to be recovered by the Selectmen of said Town for the Time being, for the use of the Poor of said Town.

This order to continue in Force until the next meeting of said Inhabitants in Town meeting."

This act was one of rebellion and independence; it was not like a riot, where the body politic can plead non-participation: it was the solemn vote of the freemen in town meeting assembled.

That this was a much bolder note than was sounded by any other town of the colony at that time seems certain, for Bancroft mentions it in his History of the

United States[1] in a way that shows he thought it deserving of special notice, and the press of the period spread it broadcast through this and neighboring colonies.

The obnoxious act was repealed in January, 1766. That a second one should have been voted by Parliament in 1767 seems like the act of insane men and almost justifies a belief in the old saying: "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad."

The rapid succession of events which followed, intensified the excitement and ripened the American people for armed resistance and independence. The "Boston Harbor tea party," the Massachusetts Act and Boston Port Bill were fitting preludes to the coming drama, and at last the mutterings of the great Revolution began to be heard. What had been but a little fleck in the sky now overcast the whole heavens and sorrow and anxiety filled the hearts of all.

Meetings and resolutions agitated the whole American people and Wallingford was no exception to the rule and the following letter which appeared in the Connecticut Journal of September 9, 1774, is an evidence of the feelings that existed in this community.

"Wallingford Sept 1 1774

Although there are too many among us of *tory* principals; yet there are God be thanked *not a few true sons of Constitutional liberty.* As a demonstration of this about an hundred of these respectable gentlemen did on Monday last as a public proof of their sentiments and patriotic resolutions at an elm tree in this town *sacred to liberty* erect a *Liberty Pole* an hundred and ten feet high: on which they have this day hoisted a pendant bearing *Liberty* and underneath the British Union Flag bearing the words *The Congress* in honor of the general Congress which are to meet this day at Philadelphia: and to testify their warmest and sincerest wishes that a spirit of Liberty, Union, Wisdom and Firmness may prevail in that respectable and important Body: and kindle more and more through every class of men in British America."

On Nov. 27, 1774, a town meeting was held at which a committee of correspondence was appointed "'to receive and communicate such intelligence as may tend to maintain Peace and Union in this and neighboring colonies," and a vote of thanks was given Dr. Dana for opening the meeting with prayer and for his patriotic speech.

The situation in Wallingford only serves to illustrate the conditions all over the country; correspondence on the vital questions at issue was flying from town to town: meetings were being held, resolutions passed and the line of cleavage between England and the colonies was growing wider and wider. Events moved fast and at last the storm breaks.

1 Vol. III., p. 172. Ed. 1883, author's last revision, says "The town of Wallingford voted a fine of 20 shillings on any of its inhabitants 'that should use or improve any stamped Vellum or paper'; its Sons of Liberty were ready to 'oppose the unconditional stamp act to the last extremity, even to take the field.'"

At ten o'clock on the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere stands waiting on the Charlestown shore watching the belfry of the old North church in Boston, to learn by a prearranged signal if the British troops are to leave Boston that night in an expedition to seize Adams and Hancock at Lexington. At last the lights are hung out, the signal is given, and into the blackness of the night Paul Revere spurs his steed on that immortal ride. The alarm is given and all along the line the British find the farmers prepared to receive and give them a warm reception.

The news of the day at Lexington and Concord spreads like wildfire through the colonies. Patriots hesitate no more and ardent, eager men go hurrying towards Boston. Wallingford sends two companies, one from Meriden under Captain John Couch and the other from the older parishes under Captain Isaac Cook.

Under Captain Couch were 38 men as follows:

John Hough, Lieut.
Divan Berry, Ensign
Ezekiel Rice, Sergt.
Samuel Hall, Sergt.
Phineas Hough, Corp.
David Ives, Corp.
Daniel McMullen, Fifer
Ephraim Merriam, Fifer
Benjamin Rice, Private
Bela Warner
Joseph Shaler
Moses Hall
Samuel Collins
Jonathan Yale
Ensign Hough
Enos Ives
Isaac Livingston
Benjamin Hart
Christopher Atwater
Samuel Rice
Nathaniel Yale
Rufus Hall
Phineas Lyman
Joel Hall
John Butler
Gideon Rice
Samuel Johnson
John Merriam
John Pearce
Seth Smith
Asael Deming
Israel Hall, Jr.
Aaron Hull
Elnathan Ives
Epaphras Knott
John Allen
Samuel Briggs
Moses Baldwin

Under Captain Cook were 59 men as follows:

James Peck, Lieut.....16 days
Samuel Barnes, Ensign..... 8 days
Samuel Culver, Sergt..... 8 days
Asael Cooley, Sergt..... 8 days
Isaac Doolittle, Clerk..... 8 days
Miles Sperry ..... 8 days
Enos Mix ..... 8 days
Ambrose Cook ..... 8 days

Amos Austin	8 days	Jesse Street	8 days
Samuel Mattoon	8 days	Ebenezer Warner	8 days
Gideon Bristol	8 days	Chas. Culver	8 days
Joel Moss	8 days	Joseph Wolcott	16 days
Caleb Hull	8 days	Calvin Hopson	16 days
John Ives, 3rd	8 days	John Booth	16 days
Samuel Merriam	8 days	John Slade	18 days
Giles Cook	8 days	Timothy Hart, Jr.	18 days
Joel Matoon	8 days	Nathaniel Hart, Jr.	18 days
Samuel Hall, 3rd	8 days	Ephraim Chambers, Sergt.	34 days
Daniel Slead	8 days	Daniel Johnson, Sergt	34 days
Jonathan Slead	8 days	Amos Fowler	34 days
Samuel Hull	8 days	Amos Davies	34 days
Rice Hopson	8 days	Daniel Bailey	34 days
Giles Curtiss	8 days	John Mecar	34 days
Peter Peck	8 days	David Ward	34 days
Abner Avered, Jr.	8 days	Stanton Richardson	34 days
Joseph Bartholomew	8 days	Daniel Smith	34 days
Amasa Yale	8 days	Charles Tuthill	34 days
Chester Hale	8 days	Samuel Mills	34 days
Aaron Ives	8 days	Benjamin Chrittenden	34 days
Amos Mix	8 days	Thomas Dudley	34 days
Archelaus Allen	8 days	Jesse Vorse	34 days
Ambrose Ives	8 days	Daniel Lindsey	34 days
Oliver Hitchcock, Jr.	8 days	Samuel Benham	34 days
Titus Hall	8 days		

The Meriden men were out only seven days, hardly time to go to Boston and return. They doubtless received notice while on the march that their services were not needed. The news of the Battle of Concord reached Wallingford by noon, on Friday, the 21st of April, and the companies set out on the expedition on the 23rd and 24th. James Lockwood writing from Wallingford under date of April 24th, says: "Col. Wadsworth was over at this place most of yesterday and has ordered twenty men out of each company of his Regiment, some of which had already set off and others go this morning * * * * * The country beyond here are all gone."[1] Samuel Kilbourn rendered an account for ferrying "across Connecticut River at Hartford" in the Lexington alarm Capt. Couch, of Meriden, with 18 men, 4 horses and 1 waggon.[2] Also Capt. Cook of Wallingford.

1 Record of Conn. Men in the Revolution, p. 4.
2 Idem p. 24.

Shortly after the alarm the Legislature issued the first call for troops. The regiment was recruited in New Haven county and about Sept. 28 it marched to the Northern Department and took part in operations along Lakes George and Champlain under General Schuyler.

Captain Isaac Cook, of Wallingford, was in this campaign and in his company were the following Meriden men who had been in Capt. Couch's company during the Lexington alarm:

John Hough, 1st Lieut.	Isaac Livingston
Samuel Hall, Sergt.	Phineas Lyman
Israel Hall	Moses Hall
Gideon Rice	Rufus Hall
John Pierce	Jared Benham

In the Siege of Boston, which took place after the Battle of Bunker Hill, there were certainly Meriden men engaged, although the only official record of service is that of Captain John Couch.[1] Doubtless, several of the company he commanded at the time of the Lexington Alarm were with him before Boston. He was in Col. Wadsworth's regiment which reached there towards the end of January, 1776. The names of only two men in Capt. Couch's Company have come down to us in a trustworthy form. Among the papers in the Oliver Rice homestead is a letter written by Ezekiel Rice when in camp at Roxbury in the early part of that year. The letter mentions the name of another Meriden man as with him, viz. Samuel Scovil.

"These lines to my family and all friends, wishing them health as through the goodness of God I enjoi at present except a Bad Cold but not sick. Our people are all well so as to eat there aLowance for it is as Good for soldiers as can be expected: we have a pound of good Bread a day: 17 ounces of pork and 2 pound of Beef Salt or 2¾ fresh for 3 days: not any saus only peas one day in a week: we have a good house to quarter in all the Company in one House the Sergeants and the Corprils and Drumer are in one Room and a man freed from Duty to Cook for [us]. I have not time to write much of the Sercomstances of things: there hath not Ben any fireing from one Camp to the other sence we came Hear: the Regelers went out 3 days after our arivel at Night & took six prisoners at Dojesters [Dorchester's]pint and burnt 5 or Six housen and barns: three of the prisoners are Returned back: one man 2 women: the others are there: on the 22 instant I was on gard and had the comand of the Gard at the Left hand fort down by the Neck. our Centery is about 80 Rods out on the Mash the advance gard with in about 60 or 70 Rods of them. I had jest sent the Corperil to Relieve the Sentry when En-

1 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. VIII., p. 134.

sign Lyman came to me about 6 Clock at night and told me that he had liberty from the General to try for there gard. I emedietly went the Rounds to the Sentry and told them and in Half an Hour from that time he with ten men took of there advance gard which consisted of 3 men only which he Brought to our gard: he went around then in the Dark of the evening in the storm of snow and hail and cam the way that their Relief come and they thought it Relief for them till he demanded their armes; they are sent to Head Quarters: the same night between one and two of the Clock I was ordered to bring the advance gard back in sight of the Brest work which I Did and told them to be still and I would go and see if the Regelers had set their Sentry again, when I went under the covert of a fence within about 12 or 15 Rods of their Lines where I staid about a quarter of an hour and could here nor see nothing: I went to the chimneys where their Station was but there was no gard their that night: the above was their advance gard. We expect to go on to Dojesters pint very soon and there an action will come on I expect. We have Hard Duty once in three Days on gard or on feteeg [fatigue] it is thought that the enemy will Due their best if we strike Dojester. We Have had 7 or 8 Hundred men to cut fasheans [fascines] for a week past to cary there, and how soon we shall go I know not. I cant write no more for it is allmost dark. I would be glad to have some of our friends come and see us and the extrordinary things which are Hear for which I presume they will not Begrug their time and expense * * * * * * * * I am Anctious to hear from Home for I have not heard a word sence I set out and Rather than fail I would give something to have some of our Brothers come and see us: let them take the old mear if they want a Horse if she is in good state. I want not for money at present tho we have Received none. We have sider at 2 Dolers a barril: we hope to Receive our bills but it is unsertain when

I must Desist tho with Reluctance and Recomend you my Dear and our children with myself to the Disposal of a kind providence who orders all things for the Best hoping in Due time I shall be Returned in health and safty to you. So I remain your Affectionate friend and Husband Ezekiel Rice

Roxbury Camp February y^e^ 25

My duty to our Parents

Samuel Scovil is sick with the plurisy in the horspital tel Asahel to call Dady and I hope I shall hear him in a Short time."

Within eight days after this letter was written Washington had found a place for the fascines, for on the night of March 4th Dorchester Heights was seized and when morning dawned the British saw with astonishment the hastily constructed fortifications and the siege guns in place, and on March 17 they evacuated Boston.

The British having departed General Washington and his army set out for New York, and that the Meriden men went with him is certain although there is no official record of the fact.

But there are two letters in existence that prove this: one was written just before the battle of Long Island which occurred Aug. 27, 1776. It is as follows:

"New York, August 24th, A. D., 1776

To Mr Oliver Rice of Meriden with care

Dear Cousin

After my regards to you I take this oppertunity to write to you and hope that these Lines will find you well as they Left me and I pray God to continue my health to me: it is a very sickly time with us here there has Six Died out of our Regiment sence we came here two of them out of our Company. I have no great News to write only that the Regulars have Landed on Long Island and our men make all the preparation to Defeit them that is possible. Meriden Melisha has got in all well: there is a fine Number of men on our Side and with the help of God we shall be able to Conqur our enemy. I shall write no more at present But please to send me a letter so I remain your Loving Cousin and Humble Servt

Joseph Rice

Give my regards to all inquiring friends. I would send Aunt Deborah but paper is very Dear and so please excuse me."

But the Continental troops did not win and the army was compelled to move out of New York. The next two letters were written by Ezekiel Rice, and evidently do not display very bright hopes as to the future.

"New York Sept. 7 1776

Loving wife These leave me in comfortable Helth as I wish they may find you and all our family: we are moved 2 miles out of the City. We have no tents but Brush and many of our people are sickly: our living is very poor our Docters have no things to Docter with and many of our folks Die. But none out of Meriden yet tho there are many sick; there is no likely Hoods of any being Dismist with out there is somebody to helpe them home: they did Dismiss a number at first and some of them well which made the Generals very sharp and at present they wont Releas any. I do not expect to be Released until the Regiment is: if I have my health and I know not when that will be. I wish it might be soon for I want to come home more than ever I Did before. Noah Austin is gaining some. I would be glad that you would send me a horse as soon as you hear that the Milishe are Dismist: if it should come to New York I would not care: there is no news to tell you of * * * * * * * * I want to have you write me a line for I have not heard from you one word sence I come from home— Sister Deborah my sincere Love to you and all the family

I am &c

Ezekiel Rice."

"New York Sept 8 1776

I take a minits time to write a line to you in the open field while I trust and hope you are at publick Worship which I am Deprived of. Yesterday I wrote to you by a Hartford man which he was to leave at the Widow Robinson: we are a mooveing to day about a mile further from the city. Last night the cannons began to play on our fourt at Hell gate and they continue their fire today: it is expected that the enemy will exert them selves to the utmost against us and perhaps we are in the greatest Danger of all most any as we expect they will land near by us: we know not when the trying hour will come on but it is expected soon by the wisest men in the Army. God grant us success. We are very sickly with the Camp Distemper and many Die therewith and no Doubt but that many will be wounded and fall in the Day of Battle and why not I as well as any. I pray God prepare for all events. there is no likely whods of our being Dismist soon as the situation of the Army is as it is. As to Business it is Sabath Day and I cant write much. But conduct it as well as you can with out over doing: provisions of all sorts are extreme Dear: the Inhabitence give five Dolers a 100 for flower; mutten 9 pence a pound and other things as high and some higher in proportion. But I must Dissist. Commending you to the wise Disposal of our all wise God fervently. Asking his grace for me and each of you that we may be kept by his all mighty power through faith to Etarnel Salvatision through Christ. I am very Desirous to here from home once more as I have not since I came from there. I ask a Remembrence with you at the Throne of Divine grace as each of you have with me. Farewell my loving wife, Dear Sister and all the family.

Ezekiel Rice

To Mrs Lydia Rice

My duty to my Parents and love to all. I have sent Brothers and Sisters and friends this is the forth leter."

The Continentals were compelled to evacuate the island of Manhattan and then retired to White Plains where the British again attacked them on Oct. 28. But some time before this battle took place there had evidently been an encampment of some sort where some Meriden men were stationed for a letter dated there seems to show that such was the case.

"White Plains Augst 19 1776

Miss Shailer These lines leve me in halth, hope they will find you so. I want to have my shirts which you mentioned sent by the first opportunity that Presents. My complyments to all friends.

These from yours, Joseph Shailer

White Plains August the 20th since I wrote the above Elijah Hall hath come into camp, Saith Mr Cobin is a coming down on Monday next. I should be glad

you would send me the art of speaking if Mr Cobin would take the trouble to bring it I will reward him well for it Yours Sincerely Jo. Shailer

(Addressed)

For Miss

Rachel Shailer: Meriden"

Following is another letter of later date from Joseph Shaylor or Shailer to Ezekiel Rice:

"Constitution Island (West Point)
Feby 12 1781

Dear Sir

These leve me in health; I ariv'd saif in Camp in four Days after leaving Meriden. Camp affairs are as usule, all hands hearty: we have Just enough to keep soule and body from parting, but hope for Good times: Our Newengland Lines have Done themselves immortal Honour, in bairing with patience, those inconveniences for which the Southern Troops have revolted, tho they were much better provided then our line * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Pleas to make my Compliments to sister and all Friends.

I am sir Your Most obedient

Jos. Shailer

Joseph Shaylor[1] served continuously in the army from the beginning to the end of the war and attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant, and was a member of the order of the Cincinnati. He was in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, and took part in the storming and capturing of Stony Point under "'Mad" Anthony Wayne on July 15, 1779, one of the most brilliant exploits during the war.

It is doubtful if the Meriden men whose letters have been given, viz: Ezekiel and Joseph Rice, were in Capt. Couch's company at the time of the campaign in New York City and vicinity for the captain was at that time in Col. Bradley's battalion in General Wadsworth's brigade which "was stationed the greater part of the summer and early fall of 1776 at Bergen Heights and Paulus Hook (now Jersey City). In October it moved up the river to the vicinity of Ft. Lee, then under General Greene's command. In November most of the regiment was sent across the river to assist in defending Fort Washington which on the fall of the fort November 16 was captured with the entire garrison."[2]

Captain Couch was taken prisoner and also the following Meriden men in his

1 His home was on Gravel street on the west side, a little south of Baldwin avenue. It was in this house that the minority party of the church held their services after Rev. John Hubbard began to preach. Mr. Shaylor later moved to Ohio.

2 Conn. Men in the Revolution, p. 414.

company: Gideon Ives, John Pierce, Nathaniel Yale,[1] Samuel Rice, Jonathan Hall, Benjamin Austin, Gideon Rice, Stephen Atwater and Moses Hall.

John Couch was in a British prison on Long Island for some time after this capture. In the State Library at Hartford in Revolutionary War documents, Vol. XII., pp. 130-181, are preserved various receipts for money conveyed by the state to men in prison on Long Island, 1777. John Couch's name is among the number of those signing. He evidently gained his freedom during the year, for he appears as captain of a company in a militia regiment ordered to Peekskill in 1777. His name does not again occur among the records.

Isaac Hall, Jr., son of Dr. Isaac Hall, was apparently captain of a company of militia which was in 1776 attached to a regiment of Light Horse. In 1777 he was in service in New York and "parts adjacent," and in 1779, according to some old military papers found in the Wallingford town vault within recent years, men were detached from Capt. Isaac Hall's company to go to Greenwich, and his name appears in the roll of those companies doing service in the Tryon invasion of New Haven, 1779.

Divan Berry was second lieutenant of a company in Bradley's battalion, Wadsworth's Brigade, and was at Fort Washington but it does not appear that he was captured. From July to November, 1776, he was second lieutenant in Prentice's company and was at Ticonderoga under General Gates. In the year 1779 he was a captain under Major Smith's command, and was on coast guard duty at Horseneck near Greenwich this state, during the time of the British expedition up the Sound under Tryon. In 1780 he was a captain in the 17th regiment.

John Hough was a lieutenant in Capt. Isaac Cook's Company. On Sept. 28, 1775, the regiment was ordered to the Northern Department under General Schuyler and was engaged in operations along Lakes George and Champlain. They assisted in the reduction of St. John and were stationed for a while at Montreal. Many soldiers in this company became sick and were mustered out Oct.-Nov. John Hough was also in Captain Hammond's company, Third battalion, under Colonels Spencer and Wooster in 1776 and 1777, which did service in this state. In October, 1777, he was in Colonel Baldwin"s regiment ordered to Fishkill. In 1779 he was a captain in a company that served during the Tryon invasion and in 1780 he was captain in the Seventh militia regiment.

Asaph Merriam enlisted in the Sixth Connecticut regiment on April 24, 1777, and served three years and was made a pensioner in 1832. He was in Captain Couch's[2] company at the time so many were captured in 1776, but he was not made a prisoner. The Sixth regiment saw a great deal of service. "It went into camp in Peekskill in the summer of 1777, but frequently was detached on expeditions or

1 Mrs. Nathan Baldwin says Nathaniel Yale, who was a carpenter, was sent across the river to do some work and was not captured.

2 Conn. Hist. Soc. Col., Vol. VIII., pp. 206-207.

outpost duty on the line above Kings Bridge. It served in Aug.-Oct. on the Hudson, in Parsons Brigade, under Putnam, and engaged in all movements made in consequence of enemy's move against Fort Montgomery. It wintered '77-'78 at West Point, and assisted in constructing permanent fortifications, etc. In operations of 1779 it served with Connecticut division on east side of Hudson, and perhaps engaged at storming of Stony Point July 15, '79. On discovery of Arnold's treason, it was ordered to West Point in anticipation of advance of the enemy." Lieut. Joseph Shaylor was with this regiment.

Chatham Freeman, the slave of Noah Yale, who earned his freedom by serving in the room of his master during the war, was in this regiment for three years. He was made a pensioner in 1818. Others who served in this regiment were Moses, Rufus, and Jonathan Hall, Levi Robinson[1] and Joseph Coban.

In the month of October, 1777, Lieut. Colonel Baldwin's regiment of militia was ordered to the Hudson at Fishkill to aid the Continental army. They were out perhaps thirty days, and probably saw no active service. In the regiment were these Meriden officers, viz. Capt. Bezaleel Ives, Lieut. John Hough and Capt. Dan Collins.

The following accounts of service by various Meriden men have been extracted from Record of Connecticut Men in the Revolution:

Abner Andrews was in the 5th Regiment and served 3 years and was most of the time stationed on or near the Hudson river.

Lamberton Clark is mentioned by Mr. Perkins as among the men from Meriden who served, but he enlisted in Middletown and did not move to Meriden until some time after peace was declared: he was drummer in Col. Sherburne's regiment, and also served with Capt. Heart in the 1st regiment.

Benjamin Rexford was in Capt. Leavenworth's company in the 6th regiment for 3 years and saw most of his service near the Hudson.

Edmund Merriam was a corporal in Capt. Robertson's company in the 2d regiment and also in the 4th regiment: he was stationed at West Point in 1783.

David Roberts, a pensioner in 1818, was in Capt. Shepherd's company in General Wolcott's brigade at Peekskill in 1777, and was also in Capt. Johnson's company, Wadsworth's brigade at Fort Washington in '76, and was made prisoner: his residence was in Middletown, however, until after the Revolution.

Jotham Hall, a pensioner in 1818, served in Capt. Richards company, 2d Regiment, and was in General Lafayette's army at the siege of Yorktown.

James Baldwin, at the time a resident of Cheshire, was in Capt. Barnes' company, militia regiment, 1777, enlisted in Capt. Sizer's company in a regiment of artificers, 1778, and was at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth and elsewhere, in service with the regiment: he was a pensioner in 1818.

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1 Grandson of Capt. Josiah Robinson.

Ephraim Merriam was a fifer all through the war and was with Capt. Couch's company when Ft. Washington was captured in 1776: but the records do not say that he was made prisoner: he was in Capt. Barker's company under Lafayette at the siege of Yorktown and in Capt. Potter's company, 2d regiment, at West Point, in 1783. He was a pensioner in 1818.

Isaac Atwater, a boy of sixteen, was in the campaign around New York in 1776 and retreated with the army to Harlem and White Plains.

Josiah Merriam was in the first troop of Col. Sheldon's Light Dragoons from 1777 to 1783, and saw service at Germantown and under Gates against Burgoyne.

David Hall, a pensioner in 1818, was in Capt. Edwards' company in Col. Waterbury's regiment on sea coast duty in 1781, but began his military career in Capt. Couch's company and was at Fort Washington in 1776 but according to records was not made a prisoner. In 1777 he enlisted in Captain Leavenworth's company of Sixth regiment and served three years.

Joash Hall was in the Danbury Raid April, 1777; his horse was killed under him, for which the state reimbursed him.

Abner Rice was in Captain Couch's company and was with the command at Fort Washington but evidently not taken prisoner.

Samuel Rice was paid a bounty by Wallingford to serve in 1781.

Black Boss, a negro slave of Abel Curtis, is stated in Perkins' Historical Sketches, to have been a soldier in the Revolution: on a roll or report of the town of Wallingford 1779 in the State Library, appears the name of Boston negro, next to the name of Chatham negro.

Archelaus Allen, a soldier in the Lexington alarm, and afterwards in Capt. Street Hall's company in the 7th regiment, is generally accounted a Meriden soldier in the Revolution, but he did not move from the 1st society to Meriden until after the war. He was the grandfather of the late Deacon E. C. Allen, of Meriden, and the late John Allen, of Saybrook.

Ebenezer and Joel Cole were both in Capt. Couch's company in 1776 and probably they were the Meriden men whose Christian names were the same but whose surname was Cowles.

Nathaniel Douglas, Justus Rice, Joel Hall and Thomas Spencer were in Capt. Couch's company but, according to the records, were not captured.

Solomon Rice, who was also in this company, shared the fate of Capt. Couch and for some time languished in a British prison on Long Island.

Samuel Collins was first a musician and later a sergeant in Conn. Line from 1777 to 1781 and went south to Yorktown under Gen. Lafayette.

Phineas Hough was a corporal in Capt. Russell's Company, Wadsworth's Brigade, and died in the army August 1, 1776, just after being promoted sergeant. Benjamin Hart and Wait Rice were both pensioners, so they must have served. Israel Johnson was a corporal in Capt. Hall's company and enlisted for three

years in 1777. Isaac Rice was at West Point in 1781 in militia regiment and Jotham Rice was at Yorktown in Lafayette's army in 1783.

No doubt other Meriden men saw service in the Continental army, but their names in the official records, if there they occur, cannot be positively identified as belonging to men from this vicinity. The lack of a middle name, an almost universal custom at the time, and the failure to give the addresses of the great majority of the soldiers in the records, makes it generally unwise to assume an address.

The British expedition up the Sound, under General Tryon, came to anchor in New Haven harbor about midnight on Sunday, July 4, 1779. No doubt beacon fires and scurrying horsemen soon carried the news through the surrounding country, and probably by daybreak of the 5th, the various militia companies in this and adjoining parts of the state were on the march for New Haven.

The British troops, about 3,000 strong, were landed at daybreak on the east and west shores, and New Haven was soon in possession of the enemy, and several buildings were fired, a number of people killed and numerous outrages committed. On the East Haven side there were many encounters with the local militia and sharp fighting a good part of the day.

The swiftly gathering companies from up the state soon convinced the British that their position was untenable and on the evening of the 6th they embarked and set sail for New York, stopping on the way at Fairfield and Norwalk, where they committed greater devastation and havoc than at New Haven.

From Meriden two companies and from Wallingford one, marched to New Haven, probably starting on the morning of July 5th. The rolls of these companies as preserved in the State Library and printed in the Connecticut Historical Society Collections, Vol. VIII.,[1] are as follows:

Capt. Collins' Company.

Dan Collins, Capt.	Jesse Merriam
James Hough, Lt.	Stephen Perkins
Brenton Hall, Ens.	James Cabon
Saml Hall, Sergt.	Benj[a] Hart
Benjamin Merriam	Saml Johnson
Amos Ives, Sergt.	Titus Merriam
John Merriam Sergt.	Wm. Merriam
Daniel James, Corpl.	Joseph Merriam
Ezra Rice, Corpl.	Yale Bishop
Sanborn Ford, Fifer	John Barns
John Couch	John Ives
Bezaleel Ives	Abel Curtiss

1 Conn. Men in the Revolution, pp. 192-3.

Timothy Ives
Timothy Foster
John Miles
Moses Hall
Caleb Merriman
Elisha Scovil
Jared Benham
Moses Hall, Jr.
Insign Hough
Daniel Hall
Isaac Hall

Capt. Hough's Company.[1]

John Hough, Capt.
Nathaniel Merriam Lt.
Thos. Foster, Ens.
Serj. Joseph Edwards
Serj. Timothy Hall
Serj. Jonath^{n} Yale
Serj. Comfort Butler
Serj. Giles Griswold
Marshall Merriam
Elisha Merriam
Phinehas Hall
Phinehas Lyman
Edward Collins
Enos Hall
Daniel Mekye
Jn^{o} Morgan
Caleb Merriman
Thos. Spencer
Amasa Merriam
Giles Foster
Ozius Foster
Jeremiah Farrington
Simeon Perkins
Amerton Yale
Elijah Scovil
Elijah Yeomans
Elisha Curtis
Wyllys Mekye
John Yale
Moses Way
Jesse Merriman
Abner Way
Israel Hall
Wyllys Bishop
Daniel Yale
Nathaniel Yale
Asa Brown
David Scovil
Samuel Merriam
John Robinson
Samuel Rice

Capt. Stanley's Company of Wallingford 1st Society, in two alarms: one to New Haven on July 5, 1779, and the other to Fairfield July 8, 1779.

Captain Abraham Stanley
Lieut. Solomon Doolittle
Ens. Benjamin Preston
Sergt. Charles Hull
Sergt. Elihu Yale
Sergt. John Davidson
Sergt. Daniel Parker
Sergt. Abner Rice
Corp. Jotham Gaylord
Corp. David Johnson

1 Conn. Men in the Revolution, pp. 192-3.

Corp. Joel Rice
Corp. Isaac Doolittle
Drum. Ebenezer Moss
Samuel Ives
Joseph Doolittle, Jr.
John Doolittle
Jedediah Button
Charles Parker
Joel Hough
Joshua Parker
Oliver Doolittle
Lent Hough
John Lewis
Caleb Merriman
Ebenezer Hull
Eliakim Parker
Stephen Beach
William Atwater, Jr.
Nicholas Jones
Jonathan Johnson
Daniel Hitchcock
Abel Ward Atwater
Jehiel Rice, Jr.
Abijah Ives
James Prout
Levi Parker
Francis Wilcox

The writer's lack of familiarity with the names of those resident in Wallingford and Cheshire makes it impossible for him to fully treat the Revolutionary record of soldiers from those towns as he has tried to give those from Meriden. The names of the officers, however, are so conspicuous in the records that it is an easy task to give a brief record of each.

Colonel Thaddeus Hall was certainly the most prominent military official in Wallingford during the war. He was born in 1728 so that he was not a young man when hostilities began. He served under Washington in the campaign of 1776 and then bore the title of major. He was stationed at first near Fort Lee and then at White Plains and later took part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. He was made a colonel in October, 1776. He took part in the battle of Stillwater September 19, 1777, and was under General Gates in his campaign against Burgoyne to the northward.

Lieutenant Colonel Street Hall received his commission July 6, 1775, and was also appointed captain of the Second company: on Sept. 14, 1775, Washington ordered the regiment to Boston, and he served there until December that year. It does not appear that he saw other service, although possibly he was in Colonel Charles Webb's regiment at White Plains, Trenton and Princeton in 1776 and 1777.

Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Cook, who had charge of a company in the Lexington alarm, was also captain of the Seventh company in General Wooster's regiment in 1775, and first was stationed at Harlem and Long Island and later marched to General Schuyler's department and took part in operations around Lakes George and Champlain, and afterwards was stationed at Montreal. He was appointed major January 10, 1780, and in June, 1783, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Captain Nathaniel Bunnell was appointed second lieutenant of the Ninth

Company, First Regiment, May 1, 1775, and served around New York and later at St. John's and Montreal. In 1776 he was a captain of Seventh company, Fifth Battalion, and was at the battles of Long Island and White Plains. He was at Peekskill in 1777 with his company, to serve in aid of Continental Army, and in 1779 responded to the call during Tryon's invasion of New Haven, but the roll of his company is not given. He was apparently a Cheshire man.

Captain Ephraim Chamberlain was commissioned first lieutenant on January 1, 1777, and was promoted to captain November 13, 1778. He was continuously in service until 1781. In the Seventh regiment he was at Peekskill in 1777 and in September with Washington in Pennsylvania; was in the battle of Germantown, wintered at Valley Forge and in June, 1778 was in battle of Monmouth, and at storming of Stony Point in 1779.

Captain Jarius Wilcox, Lieutenant Titus Hall and Lieutenant John Osborn in 1777 were in a company attached to a regiment of artificers, whose duty it was to serve under the directions of the quartermaster general. It was a pioneer and construction corps and saw service at Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

Captain Stephen Osborn and Lieutenant Samuel Hough were in a company attached to the same regiment.

Lieutenant John Mansfield was in a company of the Fourth regiment and later in Connecticut Light Infantry, serving from February-November, 1781, under Lafayette: he was in service from 1776 to 1783, and while under Lafayette led a "forlorn hope" at an assault on a redoubt on October 14 and was wounded and complimented in Colonel Hamilton's report. He was a pensioner in 1818.

Lieutenant Lemuel Hitchcock, of Cheshire, was a sergeant in Captain Bunnell's company in 1776, and saw service at Battle of Long Island. He was made lieutenant of a company in the Eighth regiment and fought at Germantown, Fort Mifflin, Mud Island, Pa., wintered at Valley Forge, and was at the assault on Stony Point. He was a pensioner in New York state in 1818.

Lieutenant Titus Moss was in Captain Street Hall's company at the siege of Boston.

Lieutenant Levi Munson was engaged in the Montreal expedition under Colonel Ethan Allen in 1775; he was captured with the others, and sent a prisoner to England, and subsequently sent to Halifax where he was confined in a dungeon several months. He served in the Sixth regiment from 1777 to 1780, and his most serious engagement was at Stony Point.

Lieutenant Ambrose Hine began as a corporal in the Eighth regiment in 1777; saw service at Germantown; wintered at Valley Forge, and was at battle of Monmouth; he was promoted to second lieutenant in the Fifth Battalion, Wadsworth's brigade.

Lieutenant Thomas Shepard was appointed second lieutenant in Captain Cook's company, First regiment, and saw service in the northern department under Gen-

eral Schuyler at Lakes George and Champlain in 1775. He was captain of militia in Tryon's invasion of New Haven but his company is not given.

Lieutenant James Peck took part in the Lexington Alarm, was an ensign in Captain Cook's company of the First regiment in 1775 and served under General Schuyler in the northern department; in 1776 he was in Colonel Ward's regiment, and took part in battles at White Plains, Trenton and Princeton.

Lieutenant Linus Hopson was in Captain Sizer's company in regiment of artificers.

Lieutenant Hawkins Hart was in Captain Bunnell's company in Fifth Battalion of Wadsworth's brigade and took part in battle of Long Island in 1776. Later was in a troop of light horse.

Lieutenant Miles Hull was also in Captain Bunnell's company in 1776. He also marched to the front in Tryon's invasion of New Haven in 1779 as a captain.

Ensign David Hitchcock was also in Captain Bunnell's company in 1776. He was also a captain in the Tryon invasion.

Ensign Samuel Culver, who was in Captain Couch's company at Fort Washington in 1776 was a prisoner from June 29, 1779, to June 2, 1781.

Ensign Jonathan Slead, who took part in the Lexington Alarm, was commissioned ensign in the Seventh regiment in 1777, and saw service at Germantown, and wintered at Valley Forge, and perhaps the privations and exposure killed him for he died March 10, 1778.

The following officers joined the order of the Cincinnati:

Lieutenant John Mansfield, Lieutenant H. Peck, Captain Ephraim Chamberlain and Lieutenant Joseph Shaylor.

Dr. Jared Potter was surgeon of the First regiment in 1775 and again of the Fifth battalion, Wadsworth's brigade, in 1776.

As the first enthusiasm of the war wore away it was found necessary to make an inducement for men to join the army; accordingly on March 31, 1777, it was "voted, that the town will give a Bounty to those that engage in the Continental service. Voted that each soldier that engages in the Continental service for the quota of Wallingford shall be paid by the town the sum of five pounds lawful money by the year for three years unless sooner Discharged: to be paid by the beginning of each year."

This payment of bounty was carefully recorded, and in April, 1779, the town reported to the State War Department a list of all those to whom bounties had been paid. A second report was made in December, 1779, and at various times lists were furnished of those soldiers whose families were assisted by the town during their absence in the field.

These reports are all on file in the State Library and from them the following list has been prepared of those men of Wallingford who were in the service of the government during the Revolution, but not members of militia companies. It

includes all those who were in service during the years 1778 and 1779, according to the best knowledge of the selectmen, and many during the years 1776, 1777, 1780 and 1781. It embraces Wallingford, Cheshire and Meriden, but does not give the commissioned officers.

Andrew Andrews
Amos Andrews
John Anthony
Titus Atwater
David Burns, Cheshire,
Moses Barns
Roswell Beach
Asa Beach
Asa Bellamy
Samuel Blakeslee
Elisha Bishop
Benjamin Bristol, Cheshire,
Ebenezer Brockett
William Brinton
James Brown
Daniel Bradley
Levi Bunnell
Joseph Clark
Daniel Cady
Abel Clark
Aaron Clark
Divan Clark
Joseph Coburn
James Coburn
Samuel Collins, Sergt,
Elihu Cook
George Cook
Joel Cook
Johnson Cook
Warren Cook
William Cook
Thomas Davis
Israel Dodge
Thomas Dudley
Edmund Field
Jotham Ford
Jonathan Ford
Benjamin Ford
Ebenezer Fox
John Francis
Anthony Goodsill
William Grant
Aaron Hall
Benajah Hall
Daniel Johnson Hall
David Hall
Elisha Hall
Jotham Hall
Moses Hall
Rufus Hall
Samuel Hall
Titus Hall
Benjamin Hart
Titus Hart
Timothy Hart, Sergt,
John Hastings
Charles Heydon
Benjamin Hndrie
Ambrose Hine
Ichabod Hitchcock
Levi Hitchcock
Thomas Hitchcock
Samuel Holt
Samuel S. B. Hotchkiss
Samuel Hoyt
John Hulbert
Daniel Hummiston
Abijah Ives
Thomas James
Benjamin Johnson
Eliakim Johnson
David Johnson

Israel Johnson
John Johnson, Cheshire,
Luther Johnson
Charles Jones
Samuel Jones
Thomas Jones
Benjamin Kendrick
Luke Kerns
Charles Kimberly
Hezekiah King
Abel Lewis
Chauncy Lewis
Ebnezer Lewis
John Lewis
Charles London
Eliada Matthews, Cheshire
Charles Merriman
Enoch Merriman, Sergt,
Josiah Merriman
Asaph Merriam
Edmund Merriam
Ephraim Merriam
James Miles, Sergt.,
Barnabas Mitchell
Enos Mix
Amos Mix
Thomas Mix, Jr.
Andrew Moor
Benoni Moss
Isiah Moss
Reuben Moss
Almond Munson
Lent Munson
Orange Munson
*Toney, negro,
*Lemon Cumber, negro,
*Boston, negro,
*Chatham Freeman, negro,
*Samson, negro,
*Prince Hotchkiss, negro,
*Job Hull, negro,
*Dick Freedom, negro,
*Sharp Yale, negro,
*Adam Molatto
*Buel, Affrica,
*Peter, negro,
Timothy Page
Benjamin Parker
Amos Parker
Abram Parker
Elisha Parker
Elijah Parker
John Parker
William Parker
Timothy Parker, Sergt,
Charles Peck, Sergt. Art., Cheshire,
Jehiel Peck, Sergt. Art.,
Jesse Peck
Samuel Parsons
John Perkins
Samuel Perkins
Eldad Porter
Medad Potter
John Prince, Sergt,
James Prout
William Prout
Benjamin Rexford
Benjamin Rexford, Jr.
Jotham Rice
Levi Robinson
Elmer Russell
Job Sanderson
John Sled
Hull Shepherd
Daniel Smith
Seth Smith
Samuel Spencer
Samuel Spellman
Selah Stedman
David Stone

* Probably slaves.

Abel Thorp
Amasa Thorp
Amos Thorp
Thaddeus Todd
James Tibbels
Peter Tibbels
Levi Tyler
Nathaniel Tyler
Job Tyrrell
Jesse Vose
Gideon Webb, Cheshire
Joel Willmot
Lemuel Willcox
Joseph Wolcott, Jr.
Samuel Wright
Nash Yale
Waitstill Yale
Total 169 men.

In the expedition to Lakes George and Champlain in 1775 were several Meriden men in Captain Cook's company. Many of the soldiers were taken sick and the following bills were paid by the state for medical attendance to Meriden men.

Dr. Insign Hough presented a bill for going after Benjamin Austin to Stillwater, N. Y., on October 30, 1775:

To Horse hire 130 miles at 2^{d} per mile . . .	£1-1-8
To my time 8 days at ⅜ per Day	£1-4-0
To cash paid expenses on said Journey . . .	18-5

Simeon Perkins presented a bill for bringing home his apprentice Jared Benham from beyond Albany.

Lieutenant Joseph Shaylor was taken sick at Putney, Vt., after the northern campaign and "was tended 16 days" at an expense of £1-10-0 and then was obliged to hire a man and a horse to bring him home, a distance of 190 miles at an expense of £6-16-18.

John Stanley, of Wallingford, presented a bill for going to Fort George for his sick brother, Salmon, in Captain Cook's company.

Dr. Aaron Andrews, of Wallingford, presented a bill for doctoring Charles Hall and Ephraim Chamberlain, two sick soldiers in Captain Cook's company.

John Austin, of Wallingford, presented a bill for going for his sick son, Amos, six miles this side of Albany.

A soldier on his way home from the campaign was taken sick at Edward Collins' home in Meriden and could go no further, so there he stayed helpless for six weeks, with Doctors Insign Hough and Isaac Hall attending him and Mr. Collins furnishing nurses and watchers. The quantity of rum and brandy administered to this sick man was prodigious during the two weeks when he was "worst." He finally recovered and went on his way, but his name is not given in the bill.

The Wallingford records give a few particulars relative to mortalities in the service, viz.:

Archable McLean, soldier, belonging to company of Col. Street Hall, died in camp near Boston, Nov. 11, 1775.

Jas. Frazer, a soldier, a regular, died Jan. 25, 1777.

Eliah, son Capt. Benjamin and Mary Hall, died in camp at New York Aug. 4, 1776.

Abraham, son Abraham and Barbary Ives, died in army July 29, 1776.

Ambrose, son Abraham and Barbary Ives, died in army Sept. 4, 1776.

William, son Samuel and Elizabeth Merriam, died at New York in battle with the enemy Sept. 16, 1776.

Pitt, son Laban and Prudence Andrews, killed in battle at Greenwich, denied quarter by the enemy June 29, 1779.

Butler, son Charles and Sarah Ives, died a prisoner in New York with the enemy Aug. 15, 1779.

As there was no manufacture of salt in this country, the question of supply was an important one. A quantity was finally imported at Boston, and the state distributed it pro rata to the different towns.[1] Its division among the inhabitants of Wallingford was a burning issue for some time and during 1777 there were many votes passed at town meetings relative to the matter. At a meeting held Dec. 4, 1777, a committee to distribute it was appointed and it was voted "that the committee set off the quantity of salt for every thousand pounds in the list, which they shall class, and appoint some meet person head of said class to receive the salt that belongs to said class.

"Voted that the head of every class of a thousand pounds that receives the salt that belongs to every class respectively shall pay to the selectmen of said town the cost of bringing said salt from Boston."

At the same meeting they chose a committee to take care of the families of those in the Continental service.

On Dec. 16, 1777, they "voted a tax of three pence on the pound for the benefit of the soldiers and their families that are now in the Continental army."

On April 12, 1779 "voted relative to keeping the powder and stores belonging to said town, that the selectmen view the old Powder house and if they think proper, to repair the same, or otherwise to build a new one to put the town stores in."

On June 26, 1780, a committee was appointed "to concert some measure for raising soldiers to fill up the Continental army."

Lebanon, Council of Safety Oct. 2 1776

1 "Whereas the great cry and want of the necessary article of salt threatens to disturb the publick peace and safety of the state, that it makes it absolutely necessary in order to supply both the publick and private necessities of the people and that in the most private and speedy method, therefore voted and resolved that a suitable number of vessels be provided at publick expense to be sent under convoy in order to get a speedy supply of that article and Capt. John Deshon [of New London and ancestor of the late Rev. Dr. Deshon of this city] is appointed as an agent to carry this resolve into execution." Capt. Deshon got the salt.

"Voted that whosoever demands more for any merchandize, labour or any other article than he or they shall demand in Hard Money, or shall refuse to receive or pass the money lately emitted by the General Assembly of this state for any greater discount than he or they would for hard money; he or they shall be deemed as trampling on the Public Faith, and we will withdraw our commerce from him and esteem him unfriendly to his country."

The struggle for independence was long, arduous, and discouraging, and the amount of money raised by taxation was an almost crushing burden for the different towns.

But at last the dawn came, and the glorious news of independence and peace was trumpeted the length and breadth of the land.

NOTE—Although not printed in chronological sequence this extract from the Connecticut Gazette supplements the town vote appearing on page 267.

"At a meeting of the true sons of Liberty in Wallingford, in New Haven County, on the evening of the 13th day of January, 1766, after duly formed by choosing a moderator and a clerk, the following resolves were come into, viz.

Resolved 1 That the late act of Parliament called the Stamp act is unconstitutional, and intended to enslave the true subjects of America.

Resolved 2 That we will oppose the same to the last extremity, even to take the field.

Resolved 3 That we will meet at the Court House in New Haven, on the third Tuesday of February next; and we desire all the sons of liberty in each town in the county would meet there by themselves or representatives; there to consult what is the best to be done in order to defend our liberties and properties and break up the stop to public affairs.

Resolved 4 That this meeting be adjourned to the first Tuesday of February next, there to choose our representatives to attend the aforesaid meeting.

A true copy, examined

P. P. CLARK."

WAR OF 1812.

With the exception of scattered Indian wars the American people were to dwell in peace until the second war with Great Britain in 1812. In one of these Indian wars, that of General St. Clair's unhappy expedition to the Northwest Territory in 1791, a few Meriden men were engaged. On the records of the First Congregational church are entered the following notices:

Sept. 1791, Mr. Hotchkiss died in the army.

Nov. 1791, Mr. Goodrich killed in the army.

Nov. 1791, George Hall died in the army.

Feb. 11, 1791, Joseph Shaylor, Jr., slain by Indians at Fort Jefferson.[1]

Beyond these facts nothing has been learned.

The war with England in 1812 was not popular in New England for one of the results was the embargo of the port of Boston and the effect was disastrous on the business interests of this section of the country.

1 This item from tombstone in Broad street cemetery.

Nevertheless, Meriden men did military service in this war and a goodly number enlisted, but the writer has not been able to learn that they were ever engaged with the enemy. The records seem to show that they were stationed either at New Haven or New London for the period of a few weeks, viz.: from Sept. 5 to Oct. 20, 1814.

In the old Merriam house on Johnson hill in the west part of the town, is preserved a little blank book in which is recorded the roll of a company. It is that of the Second company in the Second regiment, commanded by Col. Elihu Sandford. In it are found the following names that were certainly of Meriden:

Capt. John Butler
Lieut. Elisha A. Cowles
Sergt. Matthew Foster
Darius Benham
Salmon Hall
Asahel Curtis
Samuel Curtis
Ira Merriman
James Wright
Abel Peck
John Collins
Levi Allen
John E. Bradley
William Andrews
Lemuel Butler
Elah Camp, 2d,
William Merriam
William Merriam, 2d,
Arba Merriam
Stephen Morse
Benjamin Buel
Florus Cook
David Clark
Theophilus Hough
Hervey Johnson
Sylvester Merriam
Simon H. Smith
Solomon Smith, Jr.

This roll corresponds with the published records of the state.

In the Mexican War of 1847 there is evidence of but one Meriden man who served, and that was Lemuel O. Anthony, who enlisted in Co. F, 4th Inf., on April 8, 1847, and died July 14, 1847.

The account of the Civil war of 1861-65, from the pen of Colonel Charles L. Upham, appears in Part II.

CHAPTER XVII.

According to an eminent authority "in Connecticut the Tories were probably more numerous than in any other New England Colony." The same authority says this was on account of its proximity to New York: but this reason does not seem satisfactory. A more probable cause was the strength of the Church of England among the people. The growth of this communion was remarkable from about the year 1740. It began at a time when religion was at a low ebb in all the New England colonies: and when the attempt to arouse the people to a realization of their low spiritual condition resulted in the movement known as the "Great Awakening." A revulsion from such methods caused many of conservative ideas to fly to the bosom of that church which had previously been so detested by the colonists. But the question may be asked why should a member of the Church of England necessarily have been a Tory. The terms were certainly not synonymous for many of the greatest patriots and leaders in the Revolution were Episcopalians, viz.: Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Madison, Robert Morris, Rufus King and many others. In the south, in several instances, Church of England clergymen went directly from the pulpit into the field to fight on the side of patriotism, and the chaplain of Congress during the war, was William White, afterwards bishop of Pennsylvania; why should it have been otherwise in Connecticut? Why did the clergy here to a man maintain their loyalty to the British crown? Unquestionably, on account of the oath of allegiance they took at the time of their ordination and their constant communication with England as agents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and to some extent because their stipends were almost wholly derived from the same organization. Another phase of the situation which was singular to say the least is the fact that the persecution of Loyalists in Connecticut was not nearly so virulent as in other colonies. Patriotism was as strong but it did not go to such extremes. From Massachusetts and New York large numbers of Tories emigrated to Canada and England during and at the close of the war but the number from Connecticut was extremely small and the lists of confiscations of property were limited to a few cases. Connecticut thus early laid claim to her title of "the land of steady habits." Her patriots barked as loudly as in other colonies but they confined their efforts to intimidation and seldom resorted to extreme measures. An amusing illustration of this attempt to intimidate was the baptismal adventure of Dr. Leaming, the Episcopal missionary at Norwalk, who was called in April, 1776, to Stratford

to christen a child in the church under the name of Thomas Gage, in honor of the British commander at Boston. Immediately the Committee of Inspection summoned the doctor to give an explanation of why he should have baptized a child with the name of such a monster of iniquity as General Gage. The poor man stated that he had no discretion in the matter but was obliged by the rubric to give the name in baptism which the godfathers and godmothers desired. Of course, the clergyman's position and reply were unanswerable and the Committee of Inspection were powerless to punish him, much as they desired to; so they contented themselves with publishing the facts in the Weekly Gazette, in order that the Friends of Liberty may pass judgment on the attempt of the clergyman "to insult and ridicule the Continental struggle in the defence of their just rights which are most wickedly and injuriously invaded." How soon all the bitterness and enmity of the war were forgotten may be judged from the fact that William Samuel Johnson, son of the first Episcopal clergyman in Connecticut, and a sympathizer with the British cause was one of the three delegates from this state to the convention in 1787, which formed our national constitution, and he was afterwards elected as our first United States senator.

The Revolution found few Tories in Meriden, judging from the records. On June 18, 1781, the state sold to Jonathan Meigs, of Middletown, sixty-four acres[1] known as the Rexford farm, lately the property of James Jauncey, of New York, who had joined the enemies of the United States and whose estate had been confiscated. This farm is bounded west by Country road, south by Holt's Hill road, and north by Curtis Home property. On February 8, 1785, the state sold the Stone House[2] farm, part of the same confiscated estate.

We have already noted that when the pioneers of Meriden chose their farms and built their homes, Samuel Andrews and his good wife, Abigail, selected a tract of land about a mile west of the present railroad station, on what is now West Main street. Here, almost under the shadow of the grim and rugged Hanging Hills, their children, eight sons, were born and reared to manhood, and when the pioneers erected their primitive little church on the slope of Meeting House hill, just above that oak-shaded spot whence a bountiful and never-failing spring gushes forth into a brook that forms a trout-lovers' paradise, Samuel Andrews and his wife were enrolled among the faithful members of Parson Hall's flock.

It was nearly three miles from their home to this little meeting house, and each Sunday, doubtless, the family wended their way through the forest and up the hill to this pioneer sanctuary, and no suspicion existed in their minds or in those of their neighbors concerning their orthodoxy or loyalty to the Puritan faith.

1 Land Records of Wallingford, Vol. XXII., p. 205.
2 Idem, Vol. XXIV., p. 146.

In the course of time it became necessary for one of the sons, Laban by name, to go away from home to learn a trade; so he was apprenticed to Captain Macock Ward, who lived on Pond Hill, in the southern part of Wallingford, almost on the North Haven line. Here the captain lived, respected by his neighbors and prominent in the affairs of the town; for he was many times deputy to the General Court, and served with distinction in campaigns against the French and Spanish. Governor Talcott, of Hartford, in 1740, writing to the Duke of Newcastle, mentions that he has commissioned Macock Ward, a lieutenant, and we also learn that he was a captain in the Crown Point campaign of 1755. Captain Ward was evidently a man with an inventive turn of mind, for the fact has come down to us that the first pleasure carriage to be used in Wallingford, was owned by him about the year 1755. To it he had attached a sort of cyclometer arrangement. The carriage was a one-horse chaise and the diameter of each wheel was about five feet. By means of machinery and a bell attached to one of the wheels and put in motion by the progress of the vehicle, each revolution was recorded and the driver was notified when a mile had been traveled by the striking of the bell.[1] One can imagine the sensation created by the doughty captain when riding about the streets of the town in his strange and wonderful vehicle. He carried on the manufacture of reeds used in hand looms and it is probable that it was to this trade Laban Andrews was bound as an apprentice. The only cause of complaint that the town could urge against the captain was that he was a Churchman or member of the Church of England, an organization that was decidedly not in general favor at this time in New England. Indeed, the Ward family generally seems to have been identified with this church, for his grandfather, Andrew, was on the register of members of the Episcopal church in Stratford and his brother, Ambrose, was a vestryman of Trinity church, New Haven, during the years 1774-1776, and 1778-1780. But these facts cannot have much oppressed the captain or he would not have occupied so prominent a position in the community and been so largely the recipient of the favors of his fellow townsmen. Young Andrews, as was the custom in those days, was made one of the family, and forthwith proceeded to fall in love with one of the captain's daughters, and was so successful in his suit that he was soon the affianced lover of the young woman. For some reason this engagement did not terminate in a marriage, but during the brief heyday of bliss the young woman, mindful of the welfare of the soul of her lover, succeeded in converting him to the faith of her father; and the result was so lasting and thorough that the broken troth did not cause Laban to desert the altar from which he had hoped to lead Miss Content Ward as his blushing bride, but rather led him to cling more closely to it, and to become such a missionary in

1 From a manuscript History of Wallingford, by Geo. W. Stanley, and now in the possession of the Conn. Hist. Soc. The sketch was prepared a hundred years ago.

its behalf that it was not long before his parents and brothers had all become members of the Church of England.[1] Miss Content eventually married the Rev. Ichabod Camp, who was missionary in charge at Middletown and Wallingford. Their home was in the former place and here she died some five years after her marriage. Mr. Camp soon moved to the West and settled in old Kaskaskia, where he met a terrible fate, being killed by an infuriated son-in-law while trying to protect his daughter.

Samuel Andrews now determined that his youngest son, Samuel by name, born April 27, 1737, should become a clergyman and to this end he and his sons united their means and Samuel was sent to Yale College. He graduated in the class of 1759, one of his classmates being Benjamin Trumbull, who became the orthodox minister at North Haven and the famous historian of Connecticut. Tradition says that these two godly men hated each other as the devil is said to hate holy water and it is probable that in this connection tradition is correct. Samuel, after acting as a lay reader for a short time in Wallingford, was sent to England in 1761, and in August he was ordained to the ministry by the Bishop of London, and in January, 1762, he returned to America. He was now a missionary regularly licensed by the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," an organization formed in England in 1701 to encourage the growth of the church in the colonies. The society directed him to take charge of the work in Wallingford, Cheshire and North Haven; and there for a number of years he quietly labored in his appointed field.



REV. SAMUEL ANDREWS.
From an oil portrait now in England.

His personality was charming, for in him were united not only a handsome presence and delightful manners, but keen wit and humor, and affability and good nature. He won the respect and warmest affection, not only of his parishioners,

1 The main facts of the story of the conversion of the Andrews family to the Church of England and the Washington dinner in Wallingford are taken from a sketch published in The Calendar of March 30th and April 6, 1850, by Rev. Hillard Bryant. He was rector of St. Paul's church, Wallingford, 1841-50, and at that time there were many still alive who would have been eye-witnesses of the dinner and only one generation removed from contemporaries of the Andrews conversion.

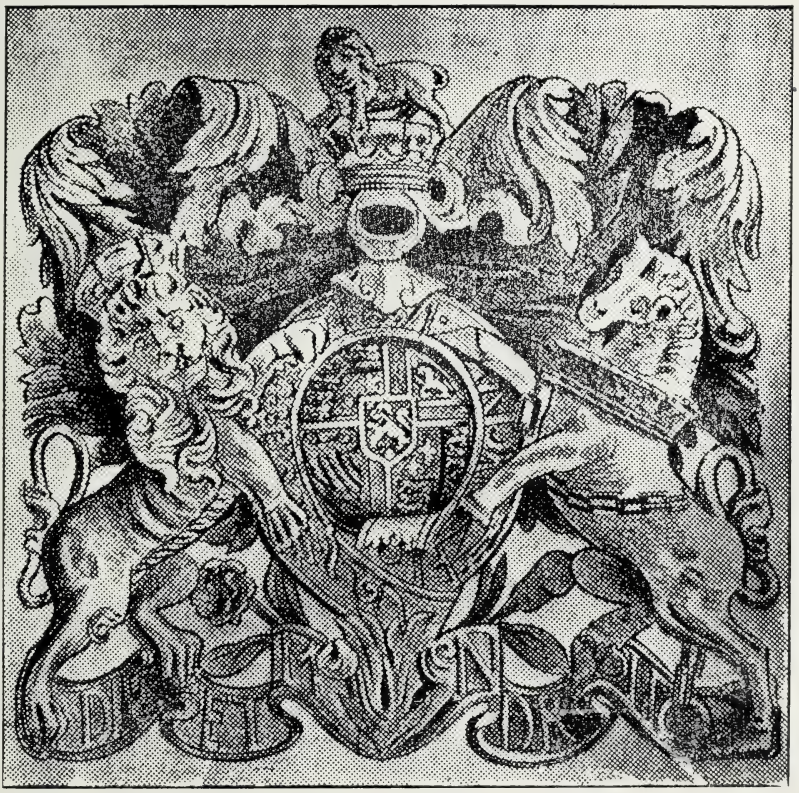
but also of the whole community. The rectory which stood a little to the east of North Main street in Wallingford rested on the same foundation which supports the house until lately forming the home of the Choate School for Boys. He was well provided for by the income of fourteen acres of glebe land, a stipend from the Missionary Society and the contributions of his faithful parishioners. He married on September 13, 1764, Hannah Shelton, of Stratford, and was blessed by a family of six children and the manner of his living is indicated by the fact that he had two negro slaves. St. Paul's church stood at the corner of Main and Christian streets on the same lot on which the public school now stands, not far from the parson's home. His life was a happy one, although laborious, for his work extended over a large amount of territory.

The church was prosperous and growing and reflected much credit on the zeal and faithfulness of the efficient minister. He was rewarded by the warm regard of his flock, by the kind words of the venerable society in England, and lastly by a present of a gilded and much carved royal coat of arms which occupied a conspicuous place in the little parish church of Wallingford. The rapid growth of the church under his care was probably largely assisted by the bitter controversy which for some time had divided the Congregationalists in Wallingford into two hostile camps; a controversy so bitter that all New England was exercised by it and the noise of the warfare had even penetrated to remote colonies. For reasons too tedious to enumerate and which it is doubtful if we should understand if related, the schism had become permanent, and henceforth for a number of years there were two Congregational churches in Wallingford.[1] Dr. James Dana was the pastor of the old society and the new or Wells society had called the Rev. Mr. Waterman to minister to them. Tradition says that a warm personal friendship sprang up between Dr. Dana and the Rev. Mr. Andrews: a friendship which was doubtless much tested and tried by their radically different religious and political views, but which lasted until the death of Dr. Dana in 1812.

Most of the years of Mr. Andrews' ministry were uneventful until we approach the time when the American Revolution broke out. His brother, Laban, for a number of years, was one of his church wardens, and his work was also assisted and supplemented by two strong and influential men who were a tower of strength to him in seasons of doubt and distress. These two men were our friend, Captain Macock Ward, and Captain Titus Brockett, a man of considerable means, and with very pronounced and not popular views on the relations which he thought ought to exist between the king and the colonists. Captain Brockett was so staunch a Tory that when he died in July, 1773, a tradition exists that it was only after strong effort that his widow and friends were permitted to bury his body in the old cemetery, and then, only in the easterly portion of the graveyard, where

[1] A whole chapter in Dr. Trumbull's History of Conn. is devoted to this controversy.

the ground was so soft and swampy, that the coffin could only be firmly fixed in the bottom of the grave by the aid of two strong fence rails bound together where they crossed each other diagonally just above the earth. As proof of the truth of this tradition it may be stated that the gravestone of the old Tory is in a neglected and lonesome spot in the extreme eastern part of the cemetery, just south of the tool house, and it is necessary to pull aside the hedge before one can comfortably



ROYAL COAT OF ARMS.

Formerly in the Episcopal church in Wallingford, now in All Saints' church, St. Andrews, N. B.

read the inscription, "In Memory of Capt. Titus Brockett who departed this life July 20 1773 in the 74th year of his age." Near at hand a mouldering and moss-covered stone announces that it was erected "In Memory of Mary Brockett who died May 1st A. D. 1777 in the 64th year of her age."

As was quite customary among people of means in those days of long ago, the opinionated and obstinate old captain had among his goods and chattels, two negro

slaves, a boy named Esau and a girl called Grace. In his will he directed that so long as his wife should live and remain his widow, the slaves should be her property; but in the event of her death or remarriage, Esau was to be free.

St. Paul's church was also handsomely endowed and the widow donated £50, the income of which was to go to the poor. We note among the personal effects of the captain a silver tankard (from which he doubtless frequently drank the health of King George and death to his enemies), six pairs of breeches, seven coats, seven waistcoats, a sword, wig box, hat case, gold buttons and silver buckles. Truly he must have been a gorgeous individual when parading the streets of Wallingford clad in his finery, his sword at his side, and followed by his ebony-hued body servant, Esau.

The sensational attempt to prevent the interment of Captain Brockett's body in the cemetery (which lies about three hundred feet east of the present Wallingford railroad station) was but one of many evidences of the intensity of feeling in the country generally.

Wallingford was like every other town in New England. Disgust with the acts of the British parliament was fast ripening the people for almost any step; it needed but a match to fire the pent-up feelings, and the day at Lexington and Concord at last set free all restraint. Then on June 17th, 1775, came the battle of Bunker Hill where the green and raw provincial forces showed a grim determination and bravery that should have warned the British of the seriousness of the conflict which was impending.

Congress in Philadelphia had already appointed George Washington commander-in-chief of the Continental forces and on the 21st he started for Cambridge with his retinue of officers to take charge of the army which invested Boston. On Sunday, June 25th, he reached New York and on Wednesday, the 28th, he arrived at New Haven where he passed the night in the tavern of Isaac Beers, which stood near the location of the present New Haven House. Everywhere his progress was a triumphal procession and he was met with joy and acclamation. The next morning he departed from New Haven attended by great numbers of the inhabitants of the town. A New Haven paper of the times said: "They were escorted out of town by two companies dressed in their uniforms and by a company of young gentlemen belonging to the seminary in this place." One of this latter company was Noah Webster who marched at the head playing a fife or drum. At the rate they were moving they must have reached Wallingford a little before noon. This was on June 29th. Accompanying Washington was General Charles Lee, soldier of fortune, and also braggart and poltroon, who later went down to everlasting infamy and disgrace at the battle of Monmouth.

Washington with his officers stopped to dine at the tavern and the clergy of the town were asked to dine with him. As he was a Churchman, it was but nat-

ural that Parson Andrews should be invited also, notwithstanding his suspected Royalist sympathies. The Rev. Mr. Waterman of the Wells Society asked the blessing, and became so voluble and continued the prayer to such a length, that impatient General Lee could restrain his appetite no longer and sat down and began to eat while the prayer was still in progress. Tradition says nothing as to the conduct of General Washington, but it is safe to assume that, as usual, it was irreproachable.

After the repast Parson Andrews was asked to give thanks, possibly with the idea that he would make some remark that could be twisted into treason to the commonwealth, but he refused to be drawn into the trap and with a keen sense of humor and with the idea of administering a rebuke to Parson Waterman for his excessively bad taste in boring the guests with so many words, he repeated a verse from Ecclesiastes, v: 2, "Be not rash with thy mouth and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in Heaven and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few," and sat down. To an ardent patriot the courageous minister's words must have been like waving a red flag in the face of a bull: but, to a patriot like Dr. Dana, with an abounding sense of the ludicrous and a not too pleasant feeling toward his rival, Mr. Waterman, the situation must have been an enjoyable one; but the occasion was remembered and Parson Andrews' words rankled in the breast of many a patriot.

After the repast General Washington and his retinue moved on to Wethersfield where they arrived in the afternoon and dined; then on to Hartford and Springfield, at which latter place they were met by a committee from the Massachusetts Provincial Assembly who escorted the distinguished party to Cambridge.[1]

In July a day of fasting and humiliation was proclaimed by the General Congress in Philadelphia and Parson Andrews chose the opportunity to deliver a sermon to his faithful flock. His text was from Amos v: 21, "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies."

Naturally, as soon as the text became generally known there was a profound sensation throughout the community. Some one communicated the text to the Connecticut Gazette and New Haven Postboy and a very acrimonious correspondence followed in the same paper. One correspondent stated that since Mr. Andrews had come to Wallingford three fasts had been proclaimed and that at the time of the Stamp Act in 1765 he had preached a sermon in his church on this text: "In those days there was no King in Israel, but every man did that which

1 Washington again visited Wallingford in 1789. His diary, under date of October 19th, after a withering reference to the Inn kept by one Carrington, gives the following interesting information:

"At this place we see the White Mulberry growing, raised from the seed, to feed the silk worm. We also saw samples of lustring (exceedingly good) which had been manufactured from the cocoon raised in this town, and silk thread, very fine. This, except the weaving, is the work of private families, without interfering with other business, and is likely to turn out a beneficial amusement."

was right in his own eyes," which showed his utter lack of sympathy with the motive which inspired the fast. At the time of the fast in 1774 he told his congregation on the Sunday previous that he did not think it worth while to read the proclamation, that he should not open his church and that his hearers might go where they wished. He himself was seen riding on his horse in the town street at the time of public worship and some of his people spent the day in festivity. His conduct at that time gave so much umbrage that on the third fast February 1st, 1775, he opened his church for public worship. Mr. Andrews replied to his correspondents and followed up the matter by publishing his sermon, to which was attached the following affidavit: "August 12, 1775, The following discourse was examined and found to be a true copy of the original by Street Hall, Caleb Hall." The sermon certainly does not show any sympathy with the cause in which the country was now embarked. He warns his hearers to pause ere it be too late, reminds them of the prodigious strength of England, calls their attention to the fact that it is absurd to prate so much about liberty and equality of all men when so many men are held as slaves in various parts of the country. The sermon is mild in tone but it is anything but encouraging to the cause of patriotism.

But notwithstanding the mild tone of the sermon the harm had been done, and, added to the disagreeable impression made at the dinner to the generals, caused excitement to reach a white heat. A meeting of the Inspection Committee was held and the parson was put under heavy bonds to keep the peace and he was forbidden to go anywhere except to and from his church without permission of the committee. The breaking out of hostilities and the Declaration of Independence must, of course, have cut off Mr. Andrews' stipend from England: and during the long and weary years, with some of his flock serving in the army and others deserting to the enemy his life cannot have been a cheerful one. It is probable that he did not continue to hold services in his church after the edict of the Inspection Committee had been issued. There was an extremely bitter feeling in the community against all Churchmen, for this term was generally considered synonymous with Toryism. A very respectable Episcopalian had been shot for being a Tory[1] and it was rumored that the wells of several other Tories were to be poisoned. But it is believed that after the order of the bishop of London was sent over in 1778 directing the clergy to open their churches and hold services, omitting the prayer for the king and royal family that the parson called his frightened flock together and began once more to minister to his people.

Laban Andrews, who was a staunch patriot, was one of the Inspection Committee and also a selectman and presumably made life as easy for his unhappy

1 Julius Yale, as a boy, heard that a Mr. Tyler, of Tyler's Mills, now Yalesville, a strong Tory, was shot while going from his mill to his house. No one was arrested, and no attention was paid to the body for some time.

brother as possible. Laban's son Pitt (no doubt named for the great Earl of Chatham, the sturdy friend of America until his death) met a tragic end in the army at the early age of fourteen.

The Wallingford records briefly state: "Pitt, son of Laban and Prudence Andrews, killed in battle at Greenwich: denied quarter by the enemy June 29, 1779." This, no doubt, was but a minor engagement with the British just previous to their descent on New Haven in July, for we learn from some old Revolutionary rolls lately discovered in the town clerk's office at Wallingford, that several companies were detached to go to Greenwich the 15th of June, 1779.

We wonder if the parson was allowed to call on that rank old Tory, Governor William Franklin of New Jersey (son of the immortal Benjamin), who was for some time confined in the old Carrington house on Main street, which stood just north of the present Simpson block.

Franklin was the last royal governor of New Jersey and a natural son. He was a man of fine appearance and on a visit to England with his father made such an impression on the celebrated Earl of Bute, that, on his recommendation, he was appointed governor of New Jersey in 1763. During the first days of the dispute of America with the mother country, he became involved with his assembly which soon declared him to be an enemy to his country, and gave orders that he should be sent a prisoner to Connecticut. He was accordingly placed in the custody of a guard commanded by a captain who had orders to take him to Governor Trumbull. The officer in charge halted at Hackensack, and was rebuked by Washington for his delay, as the commander-in-chief believed that the deposed governor was designing to effect his escape; basing his belief on the fact that he had refused to sign the parole and that a letter to Mrs. Franklin had been intercepted.

He arrived in Connecticut July 5, 1776. He was immediately sent to Wallingford after he had signed his parole. He was at first placed in the inn, then kept by Captain Johnson. It was crowded with officers, soldiers, travelers and townsmen whose sympathies were all on the patriotic side. Naturally his life was made exceedingly disagreeable. He was insulted and jeered at and even threatened with assassination. The Tories of the town who were among the most respectable and wealthy families in the community, desiring to assist the governor and relieve him from his sufferings, applied to Mrs. Potter, the wife of Dr. Jared Potter, for a suite of rooms in her spacious, well-furnished house on the other side of the street, promising to see that she was amply reimbursed. Dr. Potter, an ardent and strenuous patriot, was away with the army, and so she agreed to the proposition and Governor Franklin was quietly removed at night to his new abode where he was kept secluded and comparatively secure. No one visited him except a few of his Tory friends and, in the meantime, he amused himself as best

he could with Mrs. Potter's little girls, with whom he walked in the flower garden back of the house. He made himself as gay a companion as possible, playing, chatting and romping with them, and he would eagerly watch the clock to see the hands indicate the hour when they would return from school. It soon became known that the governor was in Mrs. Potter's house and the patriots openly promised to visit personal violence upon him so that both parties became alarmed at what might be the outcome of the situation. Rumors of poisoned wells and personal violence were circulated. The Whigs noticed the frequent visits of the Tories to the prisoner's apartments and believed that a plot was on foot to take him quietly away at night to the seashore and put him on some British boat in the Sound.[1] Petitions were sent to Governor Trumbull asking him to remove the prisoner to a place of greater safety. The Governor agreed to do as he was asked and he was taken to East Windsor where he was quartered in the house of Captain Ebenezer Grant. In 1777 he requested liberty to visit his wife who was sick in a house a few miles away. In reply to his request General Washington refused to grant it, although he wrote him a sympathetic letter. Mrs. Franklin continued to pine and finally died in great unhappiness in 1778 and on a monumental tablet erected to her memory in St. Paul's church, New York, we may read: "Compelled by the adverse circumstances of the times to part from the husband she loved and at length despairing of the soothing hope of his speedy return, she sunk under accumulated distresses." In 1778 an exchange of prisoners was effected and Governor Franklin was removed. His course was a source of great mortification to his distinguished father.

Had Dr. Jared Potter been at home it is very doubtful if Governor Franklin would have been able to find refuge in the patriotic doctor's house for his loyalty to the Continental government was so strong that he would hardly have tolerated the idea of harboring a traitor in his house under any conditions.[2]

We wonder if the Inspection Committee gave the parson permission to condole with and try to comfort his former parishioner, the unhappy Abiathar Camp, who was for a while confined on parole in his own house in Wallingford? Mr. Camp was a resident of New Haven and followed the profession of shipmaster. The shipping news column of the weekly gazettes of the period are constantly mentioning the arrival or departure of Captain Abiathar Camp from or to such ports as St.

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1 See N. H. Colony Hist. Soc. Col. Vol. 11., pp. 320-1, for the main facts of this account of Franklin's detention in Wallingford.

2 Dr. Potter was a man of importance in the community, and it was he who afterwards introduced silk-worm culture into Wallingford. He corresponded with Benjamin Franklin on the subject, and stocked his farm with mulberry trees, the seed for which he received from Franklin.

In 1805, that Baron Munchausen, the Rev. Samuel Peters, author of that lying book, "A General History of Connecticut," visited Dr. Potter for some weeks, having been referred to him by President Jefferson in his efforts to acquire some lands of which he had procured the title. The asperities of the war were so far forgotten that the clergyman and physician became very good friends, and had many a laugh over the clergyman's effort in historical literature.

Martins, the Barbadoes or Nova Scotia. He was evidently a man of considerable wealth, owning, besides his residence in New Haven, farms in Eastbury and Wallingford. He was a vestryman of Trinity church, New Haven, and a man of very respectable position in the community.

He was eventually allowed to leave Wallingford and return to his home in New Haven, having become what was known as a Recanter, but at the time of the invasion of New Haven by the British in 1779, he left with the enemy when they retired from the town and settled at last in New Brunswick where he died at the age of eighty-four years.

At a town meeting held in 1775, a Committee of Inspection was elected to enquire into all cases of suspected loyalty and to take such measures as were necessary. The committee did not let the grass grow under its feet. The members were as follows: Eliakim Hall, Stephen Andrews, Deacon David Hall, Ensign Caleb Atwater, Isaac Bull, Uriah Collins, Nathaniel Hart for the First society; Captain Asahel Hall, Major Reuben Atwater, Captain Moses Atwater, David Brooks, Samuel Beach, Esq., Lieutenant Munson Merriman for Cheshire parish, and James Hough, Ensign Divan Berry, Lieutenant Allen Roys, Laban Andrews, Captain Hezekiah Johnson and Miles Johnson for Meriden parish: another committee was appointed Dec. 17, 1776.

In the Connecticut Journal Nov. 22, 1775, appears the following:

"At a meeting of the Committee of Inspection for the town of Wallingford, in the county of New Haven, on the 6th day of Nov 1775 Benjamin Hall,[1] the 3rd, of said Wallingford, having been notified to appear before the committee and answer a complaint made against him, for a breach of the Hon. Continental Association against his attendance. To the charge exhibited against him pleaded not guilty: whereupon the committee proceeded to hear and examine the evidence and on a full and fair tryal are unanimously of the opinion, that the complaint was fully proved against said Hall, and that he has violated the 11th article of the Continental Association, in employing Asa Austin of said Wallingford, as a schoolmaster who was then considered as an enemy to his country, and as such had been advertised in the Connecticut Journal, and that said Hall has also industriously used his influence and endeavours, to frustrate the designs of the Grand Continental Congress, in representing them to be a hot headed absolute body of men, aiming at the subversion of the English constitution, and exercising a tyrannical dominion over the colonies: In justifying parliamentary measures, and in casting virulent reflections upon the committees acting under the Congress: such as being arbitrary in their proceedures—and meanly, and most ridic-

1 In the issue of the Connecticut Journal April 12, 1780, the estate of Benjamin Hall, late of Wallingford, politically deceased, by joining the enemies of the U. S. is advertised as in the hands of an administrator.

uously employed to peep into old womens tea pots and —— pots. Strictly adhering to the doings of the Congress we now hang up to public view the aforesaid Benjamin Hall, the 3rd as an inveterate enemy to the rights of British America: and most devoutly recommend to all the friends of this once happy but now injured and bleeding country, forthwith, upon the publication of this, to withdraw all connections and commercial dealings from said Hall, as directed by the aforecited Congress in the 11th article of their Association: And the Chairman is desired to procure a copy of this judgment to be inserted in the public papers.

Signed by order
Caleb Johnson, Chairman."

Asa Austin, the schoolmaster, was also in dire disgrace for rash remarks: after considering the matter carefully he was ready to do penance for his transgression, and accordingly we find in the same newspaper, under date of Dec. 20, 1775, the following:

"I, Asa Austin, of Wallingford, being sensible that I have contemptuously violated the third article of the Honorable Continental Association, and treated the Committee of Inspection with contempt, in refusing to treat with them when duly notified to appear before them: and also in speaking unfavorably to the measures taken by my country in defence of her stipulated rights, whereby I have greatly offended the good people of the United Colonies; which inconsiderate conduct I heartily reflect upon, praying the forgiveness of all whom I have justly offended; and as I am hearty in my request, I promise that for the future I will stand by my country, in defence of its sacred liberties, and utterly discountenance and disunite from those who are inimical to the rights of British America.

Asa Austin

Voted, that the above confession is accepted upon the signer thereof, forthwith publishing the same in the Gazette. A true copy examined.

Wallingford, Dec 11 1775 Per David Brooks, Clerk"

The power of this inspection or vigilance committee must have been great in crushing out all independence of statement.

Parson Andrews' influence among his parishioners in behalf of the cause of the mother country must have been far reaching and thorough. Abraham Blakeslee, of North Haven, Senior Warden of the parish there and captain of a military company in the Second Regiment, having manifested his disaffection to the government by speaking contemptuously of the measures taken by the General Assembly was broken and cashiered from office and was summoned to appear at the bar of the General Assembly to answer for seditious conduct.

In 1778 ten members of his parish in North Haven sent the following letter to "John Martin, Commissary General at New York with speed, North Haven, February 12, 1778, We the inhabitants of North Haven whose names are underwritten are the king's loyal subjects and well-wishers to his Majesty, George III. We have, therefore, provided a considerable quantity of provisions and tobacco for the use of his army and intend to send at the first opportunity we have to New York or Long Island. We have, likewise, several young men that intends to join the regulars the first chance they have.

We hope the God of Heaven will succor you in your endeavors to subdue the rebels to your subjection, so we must conclude your hearty friends and well-wishers."

Fortunately for the signers of this document it did not become public until long after the war was ended.

Parson Andrews' brothers in Meriden did not escape without a visit from the same authority which was oppressing him. Moses, who lived on the old home farm in Meriden, had been forbidden by the Inspection Committee to leave it under any pretext whatsoever and Denison, another brother, was laboring under a like situation. To Moses the most grievous part of his punishment was in being forbidden to worship God with his brethren on the Lord's Day and in his parish church. He petitioned for permission to go to church on Sundays in Wallingford. The request was refused, but he was graciously given liberty to attend the Congregational meeting in Meriden. To a Churchman of the Andrews stripe this favor was galling. Finding that he would not be allowed to attend the church of his choice he determined to have services in his own house. Immediately his parlor was transformed into a chapel. Slabs and blocks of wood served as benches and the other Churchmen who were his neighbors were invited to attend. Moses himself acted as lay reader. This was the beginning of St. Andrew's church, Meriden. The services here so humbly begun, were continued in the same house for a quarter of a century.

It should not be forgotten that at the time of the Revolutionary War, Wallingford was a much larger place relatively than it is to-day. It had almost as many inhabitants as Hartford and a trifle larger tax list. In fact, it was one of the large towns of the state and was generally noted as a stronghold of patriots of which there is evidence in the record of the taxes laid during the different years of the war. In 1775 the tax rate was 2d. on the £, in 1776 1d. in 1777 13½d, in 1779 39d, and in 1780 it reached the enormous sum of 6s. 4d. on the £, which was practically confiscation, or else it denoted a great depreciation of the circulating medium. While Wallingford did not furnish any noted men to the Revolutionary cause it had a large body of troops in the field officered by able Wallingford men.

Wallingford served as a place of detention for many others who had been voted inimical to their country. These prisoners were confined in different houses and on January 21, 1777, it was voted that all regular prisoners that shall be stationed in Wallingford and quartered in the houses of different families shall not be allowed to go about or abroad without license from the heads of these families. A large powder house was stationed in the town which seems to have been the cause of much anxiety to the selectmen and citizens generally. Guards were appointed to look after it carefully and see that the hated Tories might not find opportunity to cause the powder to be exploded. Wallingford was as susceptible as any other part of the country to news of success or hope for the future, and we find in the Connecticut Journal of May 6, 1778, a letter from Wallingford dated May 1st, which reads as follows: "Tuesday last a number of respectable inhabitants assembled towards evening to celebrate in civil demonstration of Joy the late important intelligence from Europe brought by the frigate La Sensible. The rejoicings were introduced with thirteen discharges of cannon, followed by three cheers. To this succeeded the same number of volleys with small arms with the under-mentioned toasts interspersed with the cheers repeated. The whole was conducted with the greatest propriety and regularity and the company dispersed early in the evening." We will not give a complete list of the toasts. Among them were the following which have some interest for us because they show the cause of the rejoicing:

"France and Spain."

"The American Ambassador at the Court of France."

"General Gates and his brave army who gave the last deadly blow to the pride of Britain."

"General Stark and the brave militia who fought the battle of Bennington."

"May monopolizers and withholders, Tories and Tyrants, meet with the confusion they so justly deserve."

"May the internal Foes of America never taste the Sweets of Liberty."

"May the Union of the American States be perpetual and their Prize Freedom until time shall be no more."

Wallingford was intensely democratic in its sympathies and opposed bitterly the attempt to retire officers with five years full pay; and the idea of a Society of the Cincinnati was too odious to contemplate. At a town meeting held in September, 1783, the local representatives to the legislature were instructed to oppose all encroachments of the American Congress upon the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the separate states and to pursue a strict and thorough investigation of the great and interesting question whether Congress was authorized by the Federal constitution to grant half-pay for life to the officers of the army.

But all things have an end and at last the weary war was brought to a close and the country began to resume a normal condition. And yet this was a time which has been well-called "The Critical Period of American History." For in some places anarchy stalked abroad and it began to look as if the liberty for which so much blood had been shed was but a mockery and a delusion.

Finally Mr. Andrews recognized the inevitable, that the separation from the mother country was irrevocable and complete, and in April, 1785, signed the oath of fidelity to the state of Connecticut.

With many of his flock gone and the rest impoverished and discouraged, the outlook was not cheering. Broken in spirit and in health, he decided to leave the country and settle under the British crown in New Brunswick. In spite of prayers and entreaties thither he went in the spring of 1786 and chose as his asylum the town of St. Andrews, where, from his home he could look across the St. Croix river and see the shores of Maine. He returned to Wallingford in the fall, but in the spring of 1787 he bade farewell to his parishioners and with his family made the journey to St. Andrews, taking with him the royal coat of arms which for so long a time had been a conspicuous object in St. Paul's church. Doubtless during the war of the Revolution it was safely hidden in some cellar or garret secure from the prying eyes of meddlesome patriots. But shortly after the advent of Parson Andrews in St. Andrews it was hung on the walls of All Saints' church, which was built about 1792, and although the old church is gone, still it hangs on the walls of the new sanctuary to this day, brilliant with paint and gold.

Mr. Andrews bought at first a home lot in St. Andrews, but on March 15, 1791, "Samuel Osborn Esq. late commander of his Majesty's ship the Ariadne and now of London, for £150," sold to Samuel Andrews, clerk and missionary of S. P. G., an island called Chamcook, containing 500 acres. On this island, overlooking St. Andrews, Mr. Andrews built his house and here he passed the remainder of his life. A large part of the island is now owned by Sir William Van Horne, of Canada, and on it he has built a beautiful country seat. The island is now called Minister's Island.

Mention has been made of the friendship existing between Dr. Dana and Mr. Andrews. On Christmas day, 1788, an event occurred which is strong evidence of this fact, and considering the feeling of hostility at that time between the Congregational and Episcopalian bodies it is evidence of a kind we would not expect to find. On this festival day Dr. Dana preached a sermon in St. Paul's church on "The Nativity of Christ," and after the discourse delivered the following prayer, "May grace and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ be multiplied to the flock of God who usually worship in this sanctuary. May they remember how they have received the messages of salvation from their late worthy pastor and hold fast and repent. We commend him and his family to the grace of God. Grant him more perfect and confirmed health. Protect his

life and usefulness. May the wilderness and the solitary place be glad for the good tidings he may bring and welcome him saying: Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Some time after his arrival in St. Andrews the good parson was stricken with a paralytic stroke which for a while incapacitated him for work in his new field. During the winter of 1792-1793 he made a visit to Wallingford. How much of sadness must have mingled with the pleasure of revisiting the old familiar places. His friend, Captain Macock Ward, had passed away an unrepentant Tory to the last. He never received an office from his fellow-townsmen after being elected to the Colonial Court in 1774 and he sturdily refused to the end to sign the oath of fidelity to the state of Connecticut. Dr. Dana had been called to the First church in New Haven. Mr. Andrews' father, Samuel, and brother, Laban, had been gathered to their fathers. Death had been busy in many places among his friends. But his brothers, Denison and Moses, were still living in Meriden and doubtless many of his hours were passed with them. He officiated to some extent in the churches in Wallingford, North Haven and Cheshire and performed the marriage ceremony for children of his former parishioners.

And now the time had come to return to his home in New Brunswick; the farewells were said and the sloop "Prosperity," Isaac Kirtland, of Wallingford, master, was lying in New Haven harbor at Tomlinson's Wharf. In the Connecticut Journal for several weeks there appeared the following advertisement: "For St. Andrews, New Brunswick, the Sloop Prosperity will sail early in April. For freight or passage apply to the Master in Wallingford or to Mr. Isaac Tomlinson in New Haven." The first week in April the anchor was raised, the prow was headed towards St. Andrews; on board were the Rev. Samuel Andrews and his wife, and his son and wife. The voyage was prosperous until they reached a ledge of rocks a few miles off the coast of Mt. Desert. Unfortunately the boat ran full head on this ledge although the sea was smooth and it was soon apparent that the boat was to be a total loss. The passengers and crew were with difficulty saved but they were finally landed on the shore in safety, and eventually they were transported to St. Andrews.[1] Evidently the memory of this shipwreck always stayed with the good parson for he never again came back to Wallingford to revisit the scenes of his childhood and early ministry. He continued to labor in St. Andrews until his death September 26, 1818, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. The local Canadian paper contained the following obituary notice:

"Died at St. Andrews on the 26th ulto. in the 82d year of his age the Rev. Sam'l Andrews, a venerable missionary from the S. P. G. and Rector of St. Andrews. This pious and amiable character has retired from the world full of years and full of the admiration and esteem of all who knew him—to his family and friends an irreparable loss—and while memory holds its seat the recollection

1 From a New Haven newspaper of that period.

of his virtues and of his worth will be consecrated in the hearts of all his Parishioners. He was interred on Tuesday the 29th ult. after a sermon preached upon the occasion and his funeral was attended by the whole parish, the military and a most respectable body of clergy and gentry from the neighborhood, and of the American shores, amidst the tears and griefs of a grateful people."

CHAPTER XVIII.

If one takes the electric car line and rides to the end of the track in East Meriden, nearly to the Middletown boundary, one is in Bangall. There are no precise limits to the district, and one hardly knows when Bangall is reached or when it is left; but still the name is there and has been for a long time, and people joke about it and try to explain its origin in various ways. The writer has heard several theories that attempt to account for it.

Dr. Davis gives this story in his history: "Capt. Benjamin Hall had a tavern at the Noah Pomeroy place, which in those days was a place of great resort by parties who came from Middletown, Durham and Wallingford. One night in particular, a large party came from Middletown and kept up their frolics all night: in the words of Captain Hall, 'they banged all creation': from which circumstance came the name of Bangall."

Here is one yarn that was told by its narrator to the writer as a veracious account of the origin of the name: Years ago a man in the Bangall country named Samuel Baldwin was an eccentric character who, instead of bursting into profanity when stirred by excitement, always exclaimed, "bang it all, bang it all." Thus were his emotions relieved, and thus he gave a name to the neighborhood.

Another explanation which the writer heard from an old man who has always lived in the vicinity, is that the young men who worked in the Pomeroy tin shops in that locality were so noisy and boisterous and full of horse play, that the name arose in that way. In fact, one can hear various yarns from the older inhabitants, but they all agree in this particular, viz. that there was a great deal of "banging" in the vicinity.

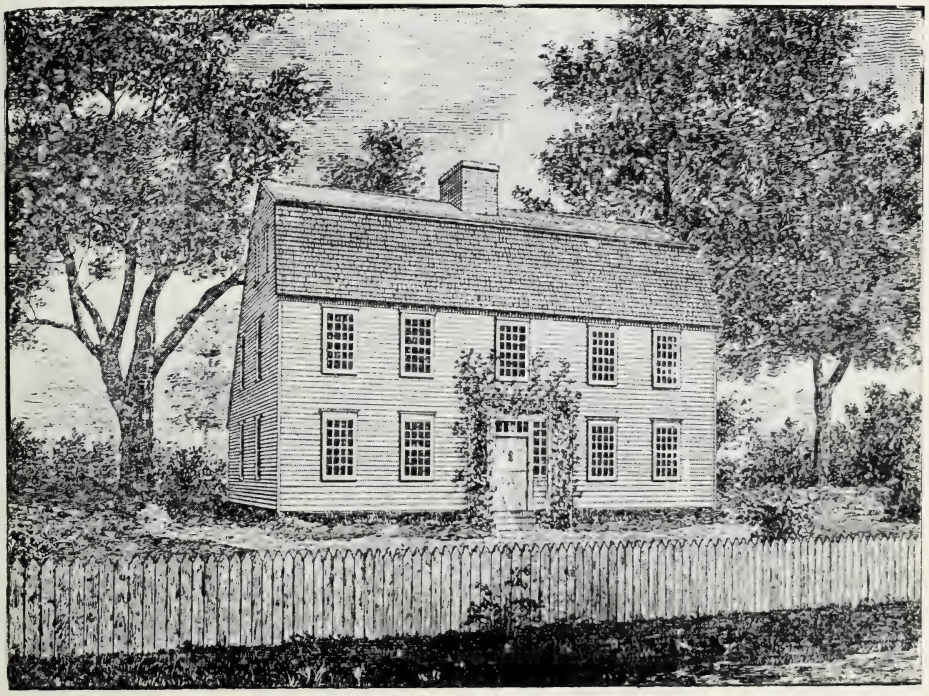
If this were the only instance of the use of the word Bangall the writer would not be at all sceptical, and would be inclined to believe this derivation. But, unfortunately for these various explanations, there are six other Bangalls, all located in New York state. The following is the list:

Bangall P. O., Dutchess Co.
Bangall (Guildersleeve P. O.), Albany Co.
Bangall (East Venice P. O.), Cayuga Co.
Bangall (Taylor P. O.), Cortland Co.
Bangall (Parish P. O.), Oswego Co.
Bangall (Easton P. O.), Washington Co.

In every case, except the first, they are all hamlets in townships.

The writer has no theory to offer but he can hardly believe that the Meriden story is a satisfactory reason: if it is, then we must assume that the "banging" habit was a general one in various parts of the country at some time in the past. It seems more likely that it is an old place name, and that the various yarns offered to account for its origin, are simply developments of the same ingenuity which would explain the origin of the word Meriden by saying that it was once a Merry-den.

Mr. Berthold Fernow, the official translator of the early Dutch records of New



OLD BRENTON, OR CASPAR HALL PLACE.

York, and a man of profound knowledge of early colonial Dutch and English, suggested to the writer that perhaps the word is a corruption of the old English place name of Bagnall.

But whatever the origin of the word, it is certain that if the early inhabitants of the east part of Meriden were seeking a name for that locality which would be descriptive, they could not have done better than to select that of Hall Farms. A hundred years ago it would have been perfectly safe to address any man one met in Bangall as Mr. Hall. Although the Baldwin family had secured an entering wedge on the west side of the locality, their presence but served to

emphasize the predominance of the name of Hall. And they were all scions of the ancient Hall stock of Wallingford.

Perhaps the most prominent man in Meriden and certainly of his name, when the town was incorporated in 1806, was Brenton Hall. The Hon. Brenton Hall he was called and he was a worthy representative of the stock.

He was born in Cheshire April 2, 1738, and was a son of Rev. Samuel of that parish, and his wife, Ann, the daughter of Jonathan Law, governor of Connecticut. He was a great-great-grandson of Governor Brenton of Rhode Island. Hence his name. His father, Rev. Samuel, had, at an early date, received a grant of two hundred acres in Meriden parish, in the extreme eastern part, fronting on the north on old Liberty street. The farm ran down to Black Pond on the south and adjoined the Middletown line on the east. There is evidence that Brenton was in Meriden as early as 1760, and on February 18, 1762, he married Lament, the daughter of Jonathan Collins, whose old house has already been pictured, now known as the Samuel Clark place. In 1767 his father presented to Brenton the farm of 200 acres which then included a dwelling and other buildings.

The house is said to have been built by Rev. Samuel for his son at about the date of his marriage, viz. 1762. A year or two ago, this dwelling, which was fast going to decay, was pulled down. It has already been described as fronting on old Liberty street, several hundred feet east of Preston avenue, at the top of the hill. This picture is a reproduction of one that appeared in the Hall Genealogy.

According to the "Hall Ancestry," Brenton Hall was a man of dignified bearing, a clear, dark complexion, bright intelligent eyes, and dark brown hair. He was Meriden's first representative to the General Assembly, and had acted in like capacity for the town of Wallingford previously, and was largely instrumental in having Meriden set off as a separate township. Brenton was first cousin of Col. Street Hall of Revolutionary fame and first cousin of Lyman Hall, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and during the Tryon Invasion of New Haven in 1779, Brenton as ensign, marched with a company of Meriden men to the scene of action. He was twice married, his second wife being Widow Abigail Guy, of Branford.

He died Nov. 25, 1820, and his body lies buried in the old Broad street cemetery. His son, Caspar, inherited the homestead and many acres of the farm and Mrs. Joseph Morse, of Meriden, is one of his children. Collins Hall, the second son of Brenton, married in 1795 and, doubtless, built his home at that time. It is still standing on the east side of Pomeroy avenue, at its junction with East Main street or Middletown turnpike.

On Nov. 9, 1796, his father gave him a farm of sixty acres "on which he now dwells," showing that the house was then built. The northwest corner of the farm is stated to be near Constant Miller's mill dam. Collins died in 1849. When the house was built the turnpike was not in existence.

Another son of Brenton, Augustus, was given a farm by his father that fronted west on Preston avenue, and the house he built is still standing and is located on that avenue on the east side, about 160 rods north of East Main street. Walter Hall, the son of Augustus, lives in the old Ambrose Hough place, at the corner of Liberty and Broad streets.

At the junction of Pomeroy and Murdock avenues formerly stood a very old house which was bought and lived in by Noah Pomeroy when he came to Meriden about 1816. It was that in which Captain Benjamin A. Hall was supposed to have kept the tavern that gave the section the name of Bangall. Many years



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

COLLINS HALL PLACE.

ago the Pomeroy family moved the old dwelling a few hundred feet east of its former location and there it stands to-day. A modern house occupies the old site.

It has lost the dignified aspect it presented when it stood on its former site shaded by lordly old maples. Its ancient lines, however, are still apparent, although it has lost its great chimney. The first mention the writer has been able to find relating to this house is dated March 25, 1751, when Israel Hall and his wife, Abigail, deeded it and sixty acres of land to Phineas Hall. The land extended north to Black Pond Brook and it was surrounded on three sides by the land of Enos and Abraham Hall and on the east also by a highway. The descrip-

tion is the same very nearly of the farm afterwards bought by Noah Pomeroy, and without much doubt the house is the same.

This Israel Hall was a son of Thomas and the brother of Daniel whose farm was further down Murdock avenue and whose house has already been described. It is probable, therefore, that it is a very old one and the date of erection was considerably earlier than that of the transfer in 1751. Captain Benjamin A. was certainly a son of a Phineas—probably the grantee in this deed. Here Noah Pomeroy lived for many years.

If now we retrace our steps to East Main street and then follow Preston avenue towards the north, we pass, at the corner of old Liberty street, another old Hall homestead site: the house was known for many years during the last cen-



BENJAMIN A. HALL, OR NOAH POMEROY PLACE.

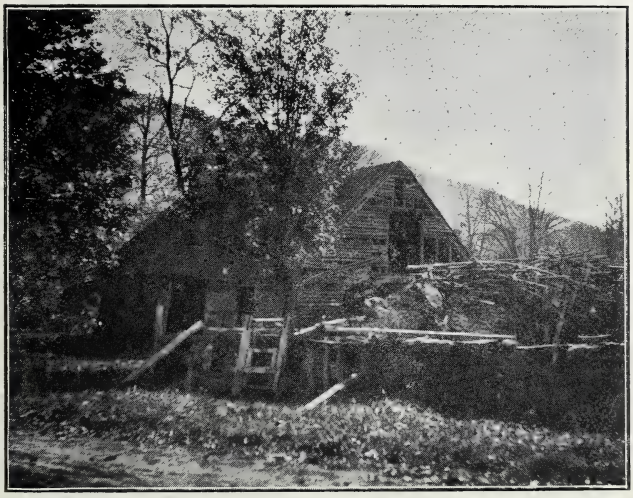
tury as the Captain Booth place and it stood just south of the present home of William H. Booth. Before the days of Captain Booth it was the dwelling of another Phineas Hall. The house was a very old one, and when and by whom it was built the writer has been unable to learn from either records or tradition.

After passing the former home of Augustus Hall, we come within less than a half mile to the Nelson Hall homestead on the left, and then just before Baldwin avenue is reached, we pass the George L. Hall house on the east, now occupied by his widow and two sons, George A. and Clayton F. From what has been written it can readily be seen that a large portion of the eastern part of Meriden was the

domain of the Hall family. It is a strange fact that not one of all the roads in this section bears the name of Hall.

But before we leave this interesting family neighborhood, there is another Hall homestead to be seen. Just as we reach Baldwin avenue, on the west side of the street, is the wreck of an old house that is in a most pitiable condition. All its dignity has gone, and it is now used as a wood house.

As in the case of so many of these old houses, it seems to have grown on its site; the old builders, now and then, combined the happy faculties of harmony of environment and utility. They frequently nestled their houses into some nook or sheltered spot, in a way that is pleasing to the artistic sense.



MOSES HALL HOUSE.

It was once known as the Moses Hall place, built by Phineas for his son, but just when, it has been impossible to learn. Moses was doubtless the soldier in the Revolution of that name, so that it is safe to assume that the house has a flavor of very respectable antiquity. In the early part of the last century it was known as the Loyal Booth place.

If now we go west on Baldwin avenue, we come within half a mile to the homestead of Nathan S. Baldwin, located on a gentle knoll, where a sweep of the eye takes in the broad meadows to the south, flanked on the east by the bold ranges of Higby and Beset mountains. To the north lie Mt. Lamentation and the Notch leading to Westfield parish. Here Mr. Baldwin has passed his life, tilling the meadows of the farm bought by his father, Moses, about the year 1815, of

Timothy Ives. Timothy was a carpenter and built the house in the year 1798. Moses was a son of James who came from Cheshire in 1796 and bought an interest in Hough's Mills in that year. James was a soldier in the war of the Revolution.

If now, after leaving Mr. Baldwin's house, we turn north on Bee street until we come to the Westfield road and then turn west, passing the mill site known as Hough's or Baldwin's, we soon come to Broad street. A little south of the junction stands a house, No. 1065, known as the Asahel Curtis place. In it were born the late Geo. R. Curtis, Mrs. Robert A. Hallam and Asahel Curtis, Jr. The house was built probably by Joel Yale in the year 1807, and was his homestead for a number of years, until he moved to another part of the town. It was originally a story



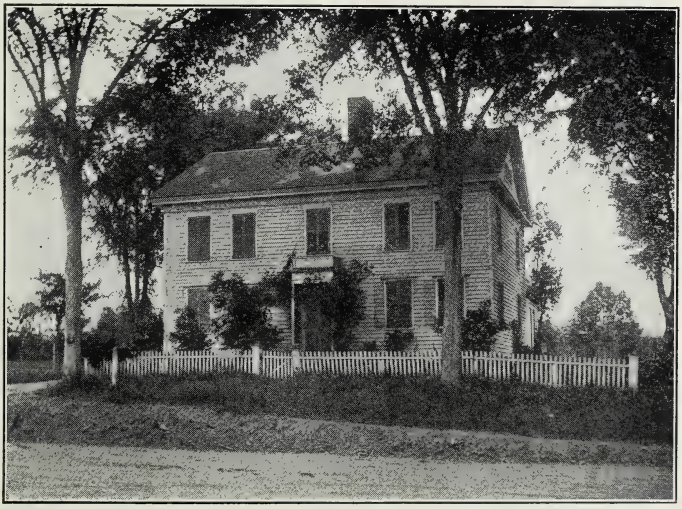
NATHAN BALDWIN PLACE.

and a half structure, and was bought with four acres of ground in 1813 by Isaac Lewis (father of the late Isaac C. Lewis) and Asahel Curtis. In a building adjoining the firm of Lewis & Curtis for a number of years manufactured metal buttons, but in 1818 the firm was dissolved and Mr. Curtis became the sole owner, and shortly after moved from his father's (Benjamin) homestead on Curtis street, with his wife and daughter (Mrs. Jennett Clark) and here passed the remainder of his life.

Now going down Britannia to Colony street, and then turning up Kensington avenue, we come within a few hundred feet of the junction to an old house, No. 67, on the north side of the street and known as the Comfort Butler place.

He came to Meriden from Middletown in the year 1770, having married in 1765, Mary, the daughter of Divan Berry, whose home was on Miller avenue, as already described. Comfort in the year 1770 bought of Josiah Robinson, Jr., a tract of seventeen acres, on which the present house stands.

The southeastern corner of the farm, according to the deed, began at a "place known as Wolf Swamp pasture bars." The swamp north of the tract was then known by that name. Although there have been several additions built, still the old house erected in 1770 has changed very little. Comfort was a shoemaker, and probably pursued that calling in Meriden, and carried on the tanning business as well. He was a rival of Moses Mitchell, who ran a tanning industry in the hollow just east of Meeting House hill.



ASAHEL CURTIS PLACE.

Comfort's son, John, was afterwards engaged in the same line of business, and many will remember his tanyards and vats that were once located on Liberty street, a little west of the homestead of Walter Hall. As has been told, land in this locality was once a part of the old Jerome farm, bought by Abel Curtis in 1771. On March 15, 1796, Abel sold to John Butler and William Olds a piece of real estate containing thirty rods, and these men immediately began a partnership on the property, of tanning and dressing leather. They continued together until 1804 when Butler bought out Olds' interest and carried on the business alone until well into the last century, and was a successful and shrewd man.

Comfort Butler's family and descendants were numerous and prominent, and

the roll call embraced such names as Henry C., Joel I., Eli C., Hiram, Lemuel and others.

There is one of the Yale houses still standing that is a dignified and substantial dwelling, and carries lightly its 118 years of service. It was built in the year 1788 by John, a grandson of that John Yale, who, in company with Jedediah Norton, bought the Belcher or Meriden farm in 1741.

The Yales had bought and sold much of the land in that locality, and, although they originally began with the west half of the old farm, by 1788 they had sold considerable on the west side and bought much on the east, and the family had been successful and stood high in the community as this old dwelling would in-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

COMFORT BUTLER PLACE.

dicate; the homestead continued in the Yale family until a number of years ago when John Yale, a great grandson of him who built it, sold the property to William H. Warnock, of Meriden, and removed to West Worthington, Mass.

A little more than a hundred years ago that country north of Cat Hole pass as far as the road leading to the Meriden reservoir, that is, Merimere, was included in the township of Wallingford and was a part of the parish of Meriden; in fact, the road mentioned was the county line. On that corner known now as Botsford's or Corrigan's stood a farm house that was long since replaced by the present modern one. This house and six hundred acres adjoining were for a number of

years owned by James Hillhouse of New Haven, very prominent in that town and the state, and for a while United States senator from Connecticut. He acquired the property in 1790 and it extended from just west of the Belcher farm and that of Joseph Edwards, over the mountain to a point fully a quarter of a mile west of Botsford's or Corrigan's corner. Evidently Mr. Hillhouse engaged in lumbering to some extent for he erected a sawmill on the brook west of the corner, and the pond which supplied the water power is still in existence and can be seen



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

JOHN YALE HOUSE.

close to the road. He also owned the inevitable cider mill. There is a tradition in Meriden that Senator Hillhouse procured in Meriden the elms with which he beautified the streets of New Haven, and if the tradition is true it must have been on this farm that the young saplings grew.

The farm was sold on November 14, 1797, to Isaac Botsford, and a map of the district made by Mr. Botsford more than a century ago is before the writer as he pens these lines and it shows that there were many more houses in that locality

than exist to-day. It indicates the old road that formerly lumbered over the mountain, coming out just west of the trotting park in Meriden. Cat Hole Pass road was not built until 1803 and this same Mr. Botsford was the builder.

On Johnson avenue, which has already been described as a part of the old Wallingford north bounds, and perhaps half a mile west of the old Merriam house, stands a dwelling that is now unoccupied, and which was probably built about the year 1785 by Israel Johnson.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

WILLIAM JOHNSON PLACE.

Jacob Johnson acquired a tract of 100 acres on this hill as early as 1732, and Israel was his grandson; he bought his brother Dan's interest and then began to buy large tracts adjoining until he had acquired a large part of the mountain land north of his home, from the Hoadleys, Harrisons and Hills.

It has always been supposed that Mr. Johnson bought the mountain land, expecting some day to develop the property into a valuable mining tract, for it was believed that prospecting had shown untold wealth of gold and copper; but

alas! the metal never materialized and much of the good Johnson money was sunk in profitless prospecting and digging.

After the father's death, the son William and his sisters, Amanda and Huldah, continued to live in the old homestead: none of them ever married and there they passed their lives gazing off on the ancestral mountain land and dreaming that some day fortune would show them the spot where nature had buried her treasures. The family made some pretensions to polite and elegant living, and it was



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

LEVI ALLEN PLACE.

considered quite an honor to be invited to partake of the hospitality of Uncle William.

They are all gone now and the ancestral peak has been divided among those who think it a fine spot for summer cottages.

On Allen hill, or avenue, stands an old house that was built many years ago, probably by Titus Merriman, and the first record we find is dated in 1784 when Titus deeds it to Giles Collins, with its thirty-nine acres of land, all in Hanging

Hills Woods: and here Giles continued to live until 1793 when he deeded the house and farm to Archelaus Allen, who had previously lived on a farm in the northeastern part of Wallingford.

The house is interesting, both in itself and on account of those who were born and lived there. In the year 1815 Archelaus gave the house to his son Levi and moved towards Meriden center, building the house known now as the Griswold place, opposite All Saints' church, No. 198 West Main street, where he died a few years later. The dwelling has been raised or the street cut down and under it is a Chinese laundry.

Levi continued to live in the old homestead and here were born his children, the late John Allen in 1815, a successful man of affairs in New York who died in Saybrook in 1901, the late William Allen, who died unmarried in New York in 1874 and who was a successful business man in that city, and the late Edward C. Allen, born in 1823, who passed his life in Meriden on the home farm, a successful and highly esteemed citizen, and died in 1887. He built the home east of the old farm house and the delightful hospitality there dispensed, hallows it in the memory of those who were fortunate enough to partake of it.

Levi Allen had bought largely of surrounding land and the farm was consequently an extensive one, and his son, Edward C., took great pride in its management and it had the reputation of being one of the best farms in the county. He was a man of influence in the community and will be remembered for the great interest he took in matters musical in Meriden, and his interest in the First Congregational church was always deep. For years he sang in the choir and was for a long time one of the deacons.

Levi Allen was the fifth in descent from Roger Alling, who came to Boston with Rev. John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton from England in 1638, and with them helped found and settle the colony of New Haven in the same year. He was the first treasurer of the colony.

Perhaps a quarter of a mile west of the Oliver Rice homestead is a house known as the Calvin Coe place, where the latter for many years lived and managed in a very successful manner the 200 acres that surround the house. Some twenty years or more ago it was abandoned as the home of the family and the large stone mansion southwest of the old place was built by Andrew J. Coe, and it has been christened as the Coe Castle. The only member of the family now left in Meriden is Winfield R. Coe, who lives in a house somewhat east of the Oliver Rice place.

The old Coe homestead had a history previous to its becoming the dwelling of Calvin S., for in 1795 it was sold by Samuel Rice to Asa Barnes, who came here from Southington. Samuel was cousin to Ezekiel Rice, who served in the Revolutionary war and for nearly 100 years this farm had probably been Rice

property. Asa Barnes lived here for a number of years, his son Eli inheriting the farm and for a while running the Andrews mill.

Finally Eli sold the farm to Ebenezer Peck, a retired sea captain of New Haven, who made this place his summer home. He had been one of the old line of mariners who once made the port of New Haven famous. He died in 1819 and the administrator of his estate sold the farm to Calvin Coe in 1820.

On the Coe farm in the corner near Allen avenue is a quarry of sandstone of very good quality that was once quite extensively worked both by Mr. Coe and by his predecessors; the stone in the railroad culvert in Yalesville came from this quarry, and doubtless also the foundation stones of many of the old houses in Meriden.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

CALVIN COE PLACE.

Until 1798 if one living in the vicinity of the Rice or Andrews farms wished to go to Falls Plains or Hanover, there was only one public road to travel and that was over the present highway running south through this Coe farm on which the stone "Castle" is now situated.

To be sure, the southern extremity was farther east than at present, for there was then no dam at the falls or rapids, setting the waters back into a pond. In the year mentioned a road was opened running south, starting just west of the Andrews Mill, and going through to Rice's bridge, which was exactly 1,650 feet south of Falls Plains bridge, according to the records.[1] This would make it possible for a surveyor to show exactly where Rice's bridge was located, for Falls

1 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. XXIX, pp. 14-17.

Plains bridge was then precisely where it is to-day, viz. adjoining the land where the plant of the Meriden Cutlery Co is now located. Evidently Rice's bridge was either washed away or badly damaged during a flood in the spring of 1792, for at a town meeting held April 13 that year, the question for consideration was whether the town would replace or repair several bridges carried away during the last floods; they voted not to rebuild or repair Rice's bridge, and perhaps Falls Plains bridge was built, after this decision, by private subscription. The present old house, now used as a saloon and facing the east end of the bridge, occupies the site of the original Justus Rice house, built perhaps as long ago as 1730. The present one was built after 1790 by Justus, Jr. Rice's bridge was for many years the sole approach to Falls Plains from the east and it was simply the continuation of the road running west from the Robert Rice place, now called Archer's.



ASA BRAY, OR BALDWIN HOUSE.

The total length of this road running north from Rice's bridge to Andrews' Mill was 381 rods, but it must have followed a private way or path already in existence, for on it were standing the houses of Col. Asa Bray and Justus Rice. The year following the layout of this north and south road, viz: 1799, a highway was built running west from Falls Plains bridge—the present Main street of Hanover.[1] For ninety-two rods west from the bridge the road ran through Rice property; this was evidently to a point just west of the old Chester Rice place.

Just south of the entrance to Hanover Park stands the house built by Col. Asa

1 Wallingford Land Records, Vol. XXIX, pp. 36, 211, 212.

Bray, of Southington, in the year 1794: he had just bought the whole of the old Whittlesey farm consisting then of 230 acres which ran away over to Town Rock on the west, its south side skirting the river: at the mouth of Harbor Brook he built a sawmill.

The colonel saw much service in the Revolution and attained the brevet rank of major, receiving his colonel's commission after the war was over. He remained in Meriden only six years, selling his farm and house in 1800 to Charles Baldwin of Woodbridge, and his saw mill to Joel Cook. Mr. Baldwin apparently employed his time tilling his large farm and lived here until 1818 when he died.



JULIUS IVES HOUSE.

His will contained a bequest of $225 to aid in building a Methodist meeting house in Meriden center: his property was valued at $15,000—quite a large sum at that time. The house and considerable adjoining land continued in the Baldwin family for many years: it is now the property of the electric railroad.

The tract of land known as Falls Plains or Hanover, bounded on the north and east by the river, was at first divided into a multiplicity of small holdings in the year 1689, and a copy of the map of this land division has been printed on page 66. The level tract extending south nearly to Yalesville, was also included under this name, and as there were only two roads on the plain and very few houses, it is difficult to follow intelligently the accumulation into farms.

Robert Rice, whose home was in the old house now known as the Archer place, was a very large land owner and apparently acquired nearly all the northern

part of Falls Plains as far south as Plumb brook and running west nearly to the foot of the hill.

His son, Captain Moses Rice, inherited or bought of the other heirs, most of this land; towards the close of his life he sold the homestead to John Nott and distributed most of his land to his sons, Abner, Joel and Amos. In 1783 he gave to Abner nine acres at the north end of the plain which probably included the site of the Chester Rice place, and on the death of Moses, Abner inherited a large tract adjoining, so that he must at one time have owned nearly the whole of the north end which had previously belonged to Robert and Moses, father and son. But he did not live on it, apparently, for he bought on August 12, 1795, a large



CHESTER RICE PLACE.

tract of land up the hill to the west, where he at once built a house that is still standing, and in a fine state of preservation; it is a good example of a roomy, comfortable farmhouse of that day.

Abner lived there until 1800 when he sold the farm and house to Abel Sanford, of Woodbridge. In 1828 it was bought by Jesse Ives, the grandfather of Julius and the late Amos Ives; it is now the farm of the former and it is one of the best in this part of New Haven county; everything about the place denotes thrift and enterprise.

Abner Rice, after selling the farm on the hill, probably built the house now known as the Chester Rice place on the Main street in Hanover, and his son,

Chester, later acquired this homestead and many acres of land. He was an enterprising and successful man. The only persons in Meriden who are descendants of Deacon Robert Rice and his son, Captain Moses, of whom the writer is aware, are the Misses Lizzie S. and Emma L. Rice, who still have their home on a part of the ancestral acres: they are daughters of Asahel, the son of Chester.

Away down on the southern part of Curtis street, almost at the Wallingford line, stands a house known as the Lounsbury place.

It was built about 1778 or 1780 by Noah Yale for his son Thomas: but when erected there was no street running by the house: it was situated on a laneway



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

THOMAS YALE, OR LOUNSBURY PLACE.

that ran up to Yale avenue somewhere near the homestead of J. Hobart Yale; the house does not face the street which was not opened until 1820.

Away back in the early part of the last century, on account of its remoteness from other dwellings, and because it was not on a highway, it was used for a while as an inoculation hospital. This fact was told by the late Edwin E. Curtis, who was born in the year 1800.

Many people know the house built by Ransom Baldwin in 1828, standing on Wall street, a little west of the place where the street turns to the north: the land around was once part of the farm owned by Captain John Couch of Revo-

lutionary fame. His house stood in the spot which is now the junction of Wall street and the road running east over Cherry hill to Gravel street, and the old well can still be seen which was just north of the house. Captain Couch came here in 1746, and bought most of his farm of Aaron Lyman, so that he could not have been a young man when the war broke out, which doubtless accounts for his short term of service.

WALLINGFORD AND MIDDLETOWN BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

Away down in the southwestern corner of Middlefield, on top of Beset mountain, once stood a poor old cedar tree that was the center of more interest in Wallingford and Middletown than perhaps any other point in the two townships. This tree marked the southwestern corner of the latter place, and during the numerous boundary disputes between these two towns everything began, centered and ended around this tree.

When the bounds of Middletown were stated at a meeting of the General Court March 11, 1652-53, the description was as follows: "This court grants the bounds of Middletown to extend four miles to y^e^ South from y^e^ meeting house and five miles from y^e^ said house westward."

In other words the court defined the southwest quarter of the town by two sides of a rectangle; the other two being understood, and the northwest quarter was defined in the same way.

The manner in which the southwestern corner was determined was by drawing a line from the meeting house due south four miles, the southern terminus being marked by a tree. Thence a line was drawn due west five miles to the notorious tree on Beset Mountain.

Had the court not divided the northern half of Meriden between the towns of Farmington, Wethersfield and Middletown in 1687, "to plant a village in," these boundary disputes would probably never have taken place: but the division was made and the bitterness of feeling engendered between Middletown and Wallingford was so great that each accused the other of chicanery and sharp practice, and the matter was brought to the attention of the General Court many times, and was not decisively settled until 1773.

The dispute was first brought before the assembly in May, 1722, when Wallingford stated that whereas Middletown's west boundary should extend north from the cedar tree in a line parallel to their center line, they had so managed it that they had encroached on Wallingford's territory to the extent of three miles and more, although the latter town's grant from the court had given territory five miles east of the Quinnipiac river; and as a consequence there was only left to them a distance of one mile and a quarter east of the river.

As a result of this petition the General Assembly or court "Resolved that a north line by the needle of the surveying instrument drawn from the cedar tree

viz. the reputed southwesterly corner boundary mark of Middletown shall forever be and remain the divident line between the said townships provided always that Middletown have liberty with the assistance of the county surveyor to measure their said five miles from their meeting house west, at the end whereof a north and south line shall determine the bounds of Wallingford, providing Middletown take the benefit of measuring said five miles before the first of May next, and give seasonable notice to Wallingford to be present at the measuring."

Accordingly, Wallingford procured the services of the New Haven county surveyor and ran a line north by the needle from the cedar tree and supposedly the matter was settled.

But, unfortunately, no. At the October session, 1726, Middletown appeared before the court and asserted that Wallingford by "false misrepresentations had obtained a disannulling of their west line to Middletown's great loss" and praying for relief.

Accordingly, the sheriff was sent to Wallingford to summon the inhabitants before the assembly: Theophilus Yale acting for the town entered appearance and (presumably) presented a counter petition signed by four Wallingford men who had made purchases in the so-called Country or Purchase Lands, and the matter was apparently dropped for the time being.

At the October session, 1729, this perennial matter again came before the assembly in the form of a petition from Wallingford stating that after the resolve of the Assembly in 1722 they had procured the services of the New Haven county surveyor to run the north line from the cedar tree, which they had had subsequently verified by the Fairfield county surveyor. But that Middletown, not satisfied with this line, had procured the services of the Hartford county surveyor who had so run the line that he had given to Middletown half a mile of Wallingford territory; the main object of the petition was to ask why this north line should not run parallel to Middletown's center line.

An examination of the map will show that all this disputed land was in what is now the territory of the town of Meriden. The cause of the difference in the lines as run by the several county surveyors, was a variation in the needles of the instruments. A difference of one or two degrees at the cedar tree would, of course, cause a great discrepancy when a point as far north as old Liberty street was reached by the north line. When the matter was brought to a vote, the upper house declared that Wallingford's petition was a reasonable one: but the lower house voted in the negative.

In the meantime a dispute between Middletown and Farmington relating to boundary lines, had broken out and the services of two surveyors, David Goodrich and Thomas Seymour, had been employed in 1725 to affix the southeast corner of Farmington which adjoined at that time the northwest corner of Middle-

town. The latter town was not satisfied with the line as run, probably because the surveyors after locating the corner had drawn a line south to old Liberty street to mark the west boundary of Middletown adjoining Wallingford. An attempt on the part of Middletown to remeasure this line between her bounds and those of Farmington was frustrated by a man named Hezekiah Hart, who refused to allow the surveyors to cross his farm; several times the attempt to remeasure was resumed, but each time Hezekiah said "No! you cannot cross my farm": and apparently acting within his rights, for no penalty or punishment resulted to the doughty farmer.

Then the dispute between Middletown and Wallingford began again, and dragged its weary length along and finally aid of the Assembly was invoked for Middletown had taken the matter in her own hands and rerun her western bound and then sued Wallingford's selectmen in the sum of £5 each for not perambulating the bounds with her. Wallingford, in concluding her appeal in 1734, said "your honors have found a remedy for other towns in like predicament so please allow the line of New Haven county surveyor to stand which is nearest the true line or else settle the line yourself." Accordingly, Middletown was summoned to answer the complaint or petition, but the upper and lower branches of the Assembly were unable to agree on a decision and the matter was referred to the May session, 1735.

As usual, the lower house agreed with Middletown at the May session and the argument in her behalf was as follows: "the assembly in 1722 acted with the utmost care and caution and enacted that the dividing line between Middletown and Wallingford shall be a line north *by the needle* from the cedar tree, with a proviso that Middletown may extend a west line from their meeting house five miles, and on y^e^ extent of that, a north and south line to determine Wallingford bounds, with a further proviso y^t^ Middletown should take the benefit thereof before the first of May next coming; in relation to which we observe first y^e^ act or judg^t^ is absolute and y^e^ proviso is only a liberty granted to Middletown and if only a liberty then not necessary for 'till liberty and necessity can be blended together and considered as synonymous words or things, we cant understand that Middletown was obliged to measure their five miles to establish their north line by the needle. 2^d^ly if Middletown were laid under a necessity of carrying out their five mile line then they were obliged to defeat their grant to establish it which is a contradiction," etc., etc.

The upper house took an opposite view and said "since Middletown's extent gives them their width of five miles west from their center line through the meeting house, then the bounds between the two towns should be a line paralel to the center line, and when the assembly say upon a certain condition that a north line by the needle from the cedar tree shall be the dividing line, it is upon a supposition

that the cedar tree stands at the south end of the s^d paralell line and that the line from thence should be run north from that tree by the same needle that ran their center line."

Again, at the October session, 1735, Wallingford stated that "Middletown did in 1727 without any order or direction from this court procure another surveyor to run another line to the great detriment and disturbance of the town of Wallingford, the needle of whose compass varies above three degrees westward from the needle by which their center and other lines were run. If sufficient authority was not given to either party by the act of 1722 to run and ascertain the line, then your honors should now appoint some suitable person or persons to perform it and that you should supply what is wanting in s^d act by determining by what needle the s^d line shall be run. If there be more compasses than one in the world, and they differ from one another, and the act doth not determine by which of them the lines should be run its necessary then the act should be explained by declaring the particular needle by which it should be performed, otherwise it must forever remain uncertain which of them was intended."

Wallingford was insistent to gain what she considered her rights and again brought in a petition in 1736; such persistence could not be withstood and the General Assembly finally at the October session enacted the following: "It appears that this Assembly at their sessions October 11, 1722, did order that a north line from the cedar tree to be run by the needle of the surveying instrument should divide said towns and thereupon Wallingford procured the surveyor of New Haven county to run said line, and afterwards Middletown procured the surveyor of Hartford county to run said line, and also that neither of said lines passeth right between said towns: that by New Haven county surveyor taking from Middletown and that run by Hartford county surveyor taking from Wallingford. It is now ordered by this Assembly that the line dividing said towns shall be a line run from the said southwest corner of Middletown, parallel to their center line as far northward until it intersects the south line [Liberty street] of those lands called the Purchase Lands, and that then the line already ordered by this assembly for the east line of said Purchase Lands shall divide said towns."

The line was accordingly run on November 25, 1736.

When it had been finally decided as above the towns of Farmington, Middletown and Wethersfield called the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the Purchase Lands now definitely given to Wallingford had been allotted to them in 1687, and asked damages for their loss: but the Assembly absolutely refused to grant any remuneration.

One would be pardoned for believing that the matter was at last decided forever and that no further disputes could possibly arise; but such was not the case.

At the May, 1742, session of the General Assembly ten Middletown men pre-

sented a petition stating that by the new line established in 1736 their town had lost some fifteen hundred acres, which had been distributed to them and their ancestors as early as 1671. That the Assembly did in 1680 grant to Mr. Samuel Street of Wallingford a farm of 200 acres which was bounded on the east by the old Middletown line which was, therefore, recognized at that time. But now certain Wallingford proprietors claim the land formerly granted to the petitioners lying between the old and new west lines of Middletown; therefore, they ask the Assembly to sell the rights to them or else give them the right to sue the Wallingford holders. This was essentially a private petition, but, nevertheless, it was just as serious for the Wallingford holder of the land in question as if it were the act of Middletown.

Accordingly, the sheriff of New Haven county served notice on Samuel Hall (father of Rev. Theophilus) Thomas and Daniel Hall, Ebenezer Prindle, Israel Hall, Jobe Camp, Daniel Baldwin, John Way, Jehiel Baldwin and Rev. Samuel Hall, of Cheshire, to appear in Hartford and make answer to the complaint. Their answer was apparently satisfactory for the petition was refused.

The names of the property owners, however, give a clue as to how much of East Meriden was originally claimed by Middletown until the Assembly decided the matter in 1736. Their old west line must have been located as far west as Bee street.

Again, in 1757, Wallingford presented a petition which proved abortive; but in it occurs a clause which gives a glimpse of what had been going on for years: it is as follows: "Since which endless law suits have been and still subsist to the impoverishing and almost total ruin of many persons and families in this day of great and necessary expense against foreign invaders."

In 1771, Wallingford again appeared before the Assembly and stated that Middletown's southwest corner was now in dispute, and prayed that a "committee might be appointed to repair to the spot and ascertain the true location; for adjoining property owners have been in long and expensive quarrels and disputes; courts and juries having been much perplexed with s^{d} disputes, sometimes giving judgements in favor of one claim and sometimes in favor of the contrary claim, and still s^{d} disputes continue to the great detriment of the public and also to the prejudice of particular persons."

Therefore, a committee was sent to the spot which made a report to the October, 1773, session of the General Assembly, stating that the cedar tree on top of Besit mountain was now lost, and some now claimed that a rock oak tree marked the corner, and others a heap of stones seventy or eighty rods north of the oak tree. The committee made various measurements, took the statements or depositions of several aged men, and decided that the rock oak marked the original southwest corner of Middletown. Accordingly, the Assembly adopted the report and con-

firmed the rock oak as standing in the true spot and henceforth no more was heard of Wallingford and Middletown boundary disputes.

The foregoing account is an abridgment of a great quantity of manuscript documents on file in the volumes entitled "Towns and Lands," preserved in the State Library at Hartford.

Many times in this book has occurred the word Beset as applied to the mountain lying east of Black Pond and extending south, through Wallingford to Branford. Its northern terminus is the pass through which the turnpike to Middletown runs: this pass was once known as Royce's Notch. The old records have three forms for this word, viz. Beseck, Besit and Beset, and it is doubtless a shortening of the word Mattabeset—the Indian name for Middletown.

Mount Lamentation derives its name from a romantic and rather distressing incident in the life of one of the early inhabitants of Wethersfield; the most plausible version appears in Stiles' History of Ancient Wethersfield,[1] and is as follows:

"Mr. Leonard Chester's Adventure—Prominent among the old-time legends with which Wethersfield mothers and nurses were wont to regale their children, was this 'o'er true tale.'" Sometime, presumably in the fall of 1636 he set out alone (as Tradition saith) to seek a suitable site for a grist-mill which he proposed to build, on the stream which flows through the south part of the town." "His exploration took him or would naturally do so, to near the source of the stream, southwest of the village of Griswoldville of the present day. This whole section traversed by the stream, was, of course, then an unbroken wilderness." "Before the young explorer had made much progress on his return journey as to strike upon any well defined trail or path which he might follow in the dark, night had fairly closed upon him, and he entirely lost his bearings for even the north polar star was shut out from his sight by the dense foliage. So, when at last day broke, he was really further away from his home than when he had started to return to it." "In the meantime, his neighbors at Pyquaug [Wethersfield] had become alarmed at his absence, and parties with drums, muskets, pails and pans of tinware, copper or brass—anything, in fact, with which to make noisy sounds and signals—had begun to search the woods in all directions. It was not, however, *until the third day after he left his home,*" "that he was found and in fact rescued from starvation by his friends. In his uncertainty as to his whereabouts and place of destination, Chester had dragged himself, with failing strength and in famished condition, to the summit of a mountainous peak or ridge in the extreme southeast part of what is now Berlin[2] township. From that place, a distance which measured in a straight line would be *very near twelve miles from where he started,* he hoped to be able to see, if he might not be able to reach the little settlement which held all that was dear to him. The result was more fortunate than he had expected. From

1 Vol. I, p. 686.

2 The southern half of Mt. Lamentation is in the town of Meriden.

that elevation, he was able, for the first time, to hear the noises and calls of his friends, and (what must ever be considered a most remarkable turn of chance) he descended in the direction whence these noises proceeded, and found himself safe and unharmed in the hands of his rescuers. Fortunately, he had met no Indians, and though he had heard the howls of wolves and the screams of catamounts, he had not been followed or attacked by either. It was in memory of this event, which might have proved almost a public calamity, that the elevation in question, received and has ever since retained, the historic name of 'Mount Lamentation.'"

Another version of Mr. Chester's adventure is found in Rev. Charles A. Goodrich's "Stories of the History of Connecticut," published in 1829: but the story is so embellished with fanciful pictures of Mr. Chester's emotions and prayers, that it is easy to see that it was written for the amusement of very young persons.

In Barber's "Conn. Historical Collections," the story is given in an abridged form, and the statement is made that a unicorn or griffin carved on Mr. Chester's tombstone was believed by some to have been one of the animals seen by him on Mt. Lamentation; it was, of course, a part of his coat of arms.

Just east of Murdock and Pomeroy avenues in the eastern part of Meriden is quite a high elevation which was once known as Bowing hill. The name seems now to be entirely forgotten.

There are very few, if any, Indian names preserved in this locality with the exception of Beset and Quinnipiac, the latter used to describe the river in the southwestern part of the town. It was formerly known as New Haven East River and sometimes called Wallingford River. In Morse's American Gazetteer published in 1797 the statement is made that the old Indian name for the township of Wallingford was Coginchauge.

CHAPTER XIX.

1806—THE TOWN OF MERIDEN.

In the year 1730 the total population of the parish of Meriden could not have numbered more than 250 souls, and during many years thereafter the increase was very slow. Few moved into the parish and after the French and Indian war there began that steady drifting into far away communities in the northwestern parts of the colony, into western Massachusets and Vermont and later into New York state, a phenomenon common all through the longer settled parts of New England.

Therefore, the parish did not get the full advantage of its birth rate which was, of course, large; but after the Revolution a slow but steady growth began which is nowhere better indicated than in the records of real estate transactions on the books of the town of Wallingford.

Even at the close of the Revolution there could not have been a population of more than 500; but when the town was incorporated in 1806 the indications point to a community of perhaps 1,100; it was more than half as large as the older parish of Wallingford.

The example of Cheshire, which was set off as a separate town in 1780, was one that the parish of Meriden was eager to emulate, and accordingly, the inhabitants came together at the meeting house on April 12, 1786, and appointed Capt. Dan Collins, Samuel Whiting and Capt. John Couch agents to present a memorial to the General Assembly praying that the parish might be constituted a town and annexed to Middlesex county; this document is as follows:

"The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Parish of Meriden in the Town of Wallingford and County of New Haven, humbly sheweth: That from the Court House in New Haven, the Southern part of Said parish is Distant about Seventeen Miles, and the Northern part of it Twenty three: and from the Court House in Middletown in the County of Middlesex, the eastern limits of S^{d} parish is Distant but about five miles and its western limits about eleven and from the Southern part of said Parish to the Town is four miles, and from the northern part about eleven. That the Lists of Said parish is about £8000. And in attending upon the Ordinary Business of the Town, Proxys, Town Meetings &c and upon their Business at the County and Superior Courts, the Inhabitants of S^{d} parish are subjected to great trouble, inconvenience & expence, from which they would be free'd if constituted a Distinct Town, and annexed to the County of Middlesex. Where-

fore your petitioners pray your Honours to take their case into your wise and equitable Consideration & enact, that S^d^ parish of Meriden be Constituted a Distinct Town by the name of the town of Meriden and included in, and made part of the County of Middlesex, and that the S^d^ Inhabitants have all the rights and privileges usually appertaining to Towns in this State, except the right of Sending two Representatives to the General Assembly instead of which your petitioners request the privilege of but one and your petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c. Dated at Meriden in the Town of Wallingford the 13th day of April A. D. 1786.

John Couch, Saml Whiting Dan Collins
Agents in behalf of the Society."

The older parish had no desire to lose the growing society at the north and they met in town meeting on May 9, 1786, and

"Voted that this meeting will oppose the Parish of Meriden being a Town. Chose Col Street Hall agent to remonstrate against the Petition of the Parish of Meriden being made a Town at the next General Assembly."

The petition was not granted, and matters remained quiescent until 1794 when on Sept. 29 at a meeting of the parish it was "voted that the Society be made a town and annexed to Middlesex County. Voted to call a town meeting for the purpose and a committee be appointed to obtain a map of the society and transact any business respecting the society being made a town."

The matter was postponed by a town meeting until the following year, and on Sept. 7, 1795, the parish of Meriden "Voted that the Society wish to be a separate town and belong to Middlesex County. Voted to petition the General Assembly and chose a committee of five persons to present it." A like vote was passed on Sept. 22 the same year, and the matter was finally compromised by agreeing in town meeting that one-third of the Town and Selectmen's meetings should be held in the parish of Meriden.

But this was a mere truce and makeshift, and the inhabitants of Meriden were determined that the parish should be a separate township, and accordingly a petition dated February 14, 1804, was circulated and found ready signers and was presented to the May session of the General Assembly that year. The town of Wallingford at a meeting held, exclusive of the inhabitants of Meriden parish, voted not to approve the petition; but the following year, as it was seen that it was hopeless to keep up a continual opposition to the desires of Meriden, it was voted to refer the matter to a committee selected from Wallingford or first society and Meriden, and as a result a report was drawn up agreeing to the separation and the following vote was passed at a town meeting held Sept. 18, 1805: "Thereupon it was voted that this Meeting do accept and approve of the same; and said report be lodged in the Town Clerk's Office."

Accordingly, it was resolved that Meriden should be a separate town and the following bill was passed:

"At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut holden at Hartford on the second Thursday in May, 1806—

Upon the Petition of Phineas Lyman and others Inhabitants of the Town of Wallingford in the County of Newhaven shewing to this Assembly that the Parish of Meriden in said Town constitutes, in extent, population and Property more than one-third part of said Town, and they do not in their present situation enjoy their just rights to which they are entitled in common with their fellow Citizens; praying that said Parish may be incorporated with the ordinary rights, privileges and immunities which are enjoyed by other Towns in this State as by Petition on File dated February 14th A. D. 1804—This Petition was preferred to this Assembly at their Session holden at Hartford on the second thursday in May 1804, and was legally served on the Inhabitants of said Town and returned, and by legal continuances came to this Session of said Assembly when the said Inhabitants were three times publicly called and made default of appearance—

The Petitioners were heard and the facts stated in said Petition were fully proved to be true—

Resolved, by this Assembly that the Inhabitants living within the limits of said Parish of Meriden be and they are hereby incorporated into and made a Town by the name of MERIDEN, and that they and their Successors Inhabitants within said limits are and shall forever be and remain a Town and body politic with the ordinary rights privileges and immunities which are enjoyed by other Towns in this State by virtue of their respective incorporations: and the right to elect and send one Representative only to the General Assembly until by Law they shall be entitled to elect and send two; That the dividing line between the first Society in said Wallingford and said Parish of Meriden be and remain the dividing line. That all Persons who shall be resident in said Town including said Parish and supported in whole or in part by said Town and Parish at the rising of this Assembly, and also all Inhabitants of said Town and Parish who shall then be without the limits of said Town and Parish, and afterwards return and become chargeable, with all charges and expences which shall arise by reason of any such person or persons shall be apportioned between said Town of Wallingford and said Town of Meriden according to the amount of their respective Lists for August 20th 1804 as compleated and returned to the Town Clerks Office; said division and apportionment in case said Towns shall not agree, to be made by three disinterested Persons of whom two shall be chosen by said Town of Wallingford and one by said Town of Meriden; and with a just reference to the number, and expence necessary for the support of such chargeable Persons; That all Debts which shall be due from said Town including said Parish, and all Debts which shall be due to

said Town at said date shall be divided and apportioned between the said Towns according to the Lists and in the manner herein before prescribed relating to chargeable Persons: That the said Town of Meriden shall repair and when necessary build the Bridge of which one-half is within the limits of said Town of Wallingford, across Wallingford River so called, known and called by the name of Falls plain bridge, at the cost and expence of said Town of Meriden; That all Collectors of Taxes granted or which shall be granted before said time, shall have power to collect the same as fully as if this Resolve had not passed; That said town of Meriden shall hold their first Town Meeting at the Meetinghouse in said Meriden on the third Monday in June next at one o'clock afternoon, and proceed to the choice of all Town Officers, the Moderator of said Meeting excepted; by Law allowed and established; which Meeting shall be warned and by Warrant signed by George W. Stanley Esquire a Justice of Peace for New Haven County and Posted on the Public Sign post in said Meriden at least ten days previous to said third Monday, and said George W. Stanley Esquire shall be Moderator of said Meeting; and in case of the absence of said Justice, Ephraim Cook Esquire a Justice of Peace for said County is hereby impowered to sign such Warrant, and preside in said meeting—

A True Copy of Record.

Examined by Samuel Wyllys, Secretary

Amos White Town Clerk."

While these struggles of the parish of Meriden to become a separate town were in progress, two portions of her territory at the north had been cut off and added to the town of Berlin.

In the year 1773 those farmers who lived on the northern half of the old Belcher or Meriden farm petitioned the General Assembly praying that they might be annexed to the town of Farmington and we accordingly find the following vote on the Wallingford records.

"Special Town meeting May 17 1773 question was put whether the Town would chose an agent or agents to represent said Town at the General Assembly May instant on the memorial of the society of Worthington by their agent Jedediah Norton Petitioning that the lands called the Belchers Farm in the Society of Meriden and the inhabitants Included therein might belong and be annexed to the County of Hartford and Town of Farmington. Voted in the affirmitive that they would appoint an agent. Chose Macock Ward Esq. to be their agent to represent said Town on said Memorial."

This petition was not granted, but at the October session, 1803, a second one signed by Andrew Norton Samuel Norton and Abraham Wright was presented.

and a strip of territory about half a mile wide north and south and extending from the eastern boundary of the parish to the ledge west of the Belcher farm was added to the town of Berlin: this left the northern boundary of Meriden about where it is to-day.

At the October session 1798 on the petition of Isaac Botsford, Harvey Parsons, John Parsons, Josiah Hill, Samuel Peck, Titus Bronson, Aaron Parsons and Jonathan Hills, a portion in the northwestern part of Meriden was annexed to Berlin. This is represented on the map by a jog which extends from Botsford's or Corrigan's corner in Berlin to the southern part of Cat Hole mountain.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST TOWN MEETING HELD IN MERIDEN.

At a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Meriden having been legally warned agreeable to the resolve of the "General Assembly of this State" ordering S^{d} Town meeting to be held at the meeting house in Meriden on the sixteenth day of June 1806—

George W. Stanley Esq. Moderator of this meeting by order of Gen^{l} Assembly.

Chose, Amos White Town Clerk.

Chose, Capt. Ezekiel Rice, Ambrose Hough and Stephen Bailey, Selectmen for this Town.

Chose, Jared Benham and Eli Barnes, Constables.

Voted, That any person may wear his hat in Town meeting "Except" when addressing the Moderator.

Chose, Enos Hall 2nd, Giles O. Griswold & Joseph Hall Grand jurors.

Chose, Samuel Yale, Asael Yale, Jehiel Preston, Harvey Andrews, Aaron Merriam, Benjamin Merriam 2nd & Levi Hall Surveyors of Highways.

Chose, Nathaniel Yale, Stephen Perkins & Insign Hough Fence viewers.

Chose, Seth D. Plum, Titus Ives & Asahel Merriam Listers for this Town.

Chose, Capt. William Olds Sealer of Leather.

Chose, Samuel Yale Sealer of weights and measures.

Chose, Daniel Yale, Sealer of dry measures.

Chose, Eli Barns, Nathaniel Yale, Levi Foster, Israel Hall and Elisha Merriman Pound keepers.

Voted, That the keepers of Pounds provide their pounds free of expence to the Town.

Voted, To lay a Tax for the purpose of defraying the debts and expences to which this Town now is or may be liable.

Voted, That a Tax of five mills on the dollar on the List for August 20th, 1805, be granted and collected for the purpose of defraying the debts and expences to which the Town is or may be liable and that the same be collected and paid to the Town Treasurer within thirty days.

Chose, Abner Griswold Collector of the tax laid this day.

Chose, Samuel Yale Town Treasurer.

Voted, To appoint a committee of four persons to settle and adjust all business between this Town and the Town of Wallingford respecting the Town poor and all other business that shall be found necessary for said Committee to do.

Chose, Capt Ezekiel Rice, Ambrose Hough, Stephen Bailey & Eli Barns a committee for the purpose making the before named setttlement.

Voted, That the Bill in form granted by the Gen[l] Assembly for incorporating Meriden into a Town distinct from the Town of Wallingford, be Recorded in the beginning of the Town Book for recording deeds of Land &c.

Voted, That no horse kind or neat Cattle shall be allowed to run at large on the highway or Commons in this Town.

Voted, That Sheep shall not be allowed to run at large on the Commons in this Town.

Voted, That if the owners of any Boar shall suffer him to run at large when more than three months old, he shall be liable to pay a fine of one Dollar.

Voted, That Geese shall not be suffered to run at large on the highways unless they are well Yoaked.

Voted, That the Selectmen of this [town] be allowed to give and take Deeds in behalf of this Town at their discretion.

Voted, That the selectmen shall warn a Town meeting to be holden at the Meetinghouse in Meriden on the second Tuesday of November next.

After choosing the Clerk, and Constables; the motion was made and tried; Whether Moses Barns shall be allowed to vote in this meeting and Voted in the negative. Amos White, Town Clerk.

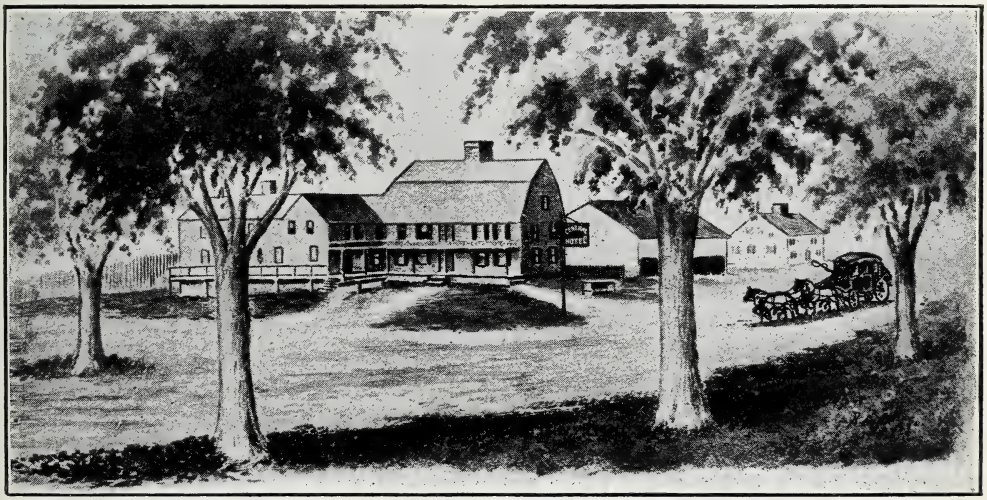
Meriden June 16th 1806.

And now at last Meriden was one of that "federation of independent towns endowed with all the attributes of sovereignty not expressly granted to the General Court" of the state of Connecticut. The long struggle was ended, and the town could now grow and expand, unhampered by the vexatious conditions, inseparable from its former state of suburban parish of a larger community.

Meriden must have been very primitive in appearance even at as late a date as 1806: it still retained its distinctive feature of a territory parceled out into farms: to be sure, there was the beginning of a village settlement in the vicinity of the Meeting House, for the advantage of locating near the common center had appealed to those who gained their livelihood by other than agricultural pursuits, notably Ambrose Hough the miller, Butler & Olds the tanners; Amos White & Co. and Curtis & Lewis, who were storekeepers and sold everything from a spool of thread to a gallon of rum; and Seth D. Plum and Dr. Insign Hough, the tavern keepers.

But the real central pivot was the tavern kept by Dr. Insign Hough at the corner of Broad and East Main streets: here were the headquarters of the selectmen and other town officers; here the books of the public library were kept and here the farmers met to discuss the events of the day: and, last but not least, here twice a day the stage coaches from Hartford to New Haven and vice versa, stopped to change horses and to give the passengers a chance to sample the bountiful larder provided by the doctor.

In the old days when the tavern was in its prime, and still the center of the quiet little village, many a merrymaking was held around its generous hearth, and hilarious fun flowed fast and free from honest hearts untainted by the guile and sham that often mar conviviality of these modern days.



THE OLD CENTRAL TAVERN.

And when the annual town meetings and elections drew near, hot were the wordy battles that resounded through the rooms in the eager attempt to change some wavering vote: for Meriden was so close a town, that one man convinced, sometimes spanned the distance between defeat and victory.

Linus Birdsey, who carries lightly his more than fourscore years, remembers those old days, when, youngster like, he would hover on the fringe of a group of old political Nestors, and listen to words of wisdom and prophecy that unfolded the hideous destiny of the Republic if it wavered from the good old Democratic faith and followed the strange new gods of the renegade Whigs.

Another group he recalls of only five, called the Old Guard; survivors perhaps of a larger circle; men of wit and weight who had lived and learned: and

yet in the evening of their lives with vigor little changed, and with capacity for fun as keen as ever, they would meet at stated dates and live again the old days in retrospect, whiling away the hours with story after story of other times: and perhaps now and then a spoon would tinkle in a glass with a melody most bewitching: but of this the writer cannot tell as he was never there. He only knows that he has heard that one cold night when the hour was late, and the time had come to say good night, one of the famous guard left his friends, wended his way to his home and had snugly tucked himself in bed before he remembered his patient nag left tied in the tavern shed more than a mile away.

The turnpike was opened in 1799 and the event was hailed with as much joy and created as great excitement as did the railroad thirty-eight years later.

The layout of this highway was adopted in 1798 by the General Assembly on the petition of Senator Hillhouse and others and work was immediately begun. The damages awarded to property owners at the time, and recorded in a volume, preserved in the office of the secretary of state in Hartford, make it possible for us to eliminate the hundred years that separate our day from that of 1806, and start at Ann street and walk north, noting the different houses just as one might have done a century ago.

First we would have seen over on Curtis street, the old Parson Hall house, occupied by his grandson, Dr. Theophilus Hall, and north of that, on the other side of Ann street, the Daniel Hough place, and north of that the Benjamin Curtis homestead, where the old man and his family were still living, and a few hundred feet further on, the new house, the residence of his son Benjamin, Jr., while just across the road we would have observed the Capt. John Webb dwelling, and back of that, and fronting on Broad street (the new turnpike), his nephew, Benjamin Hart's new house (now the home of Mrs. Juliette Y. Curtis). Just north of this place, in the fork of the roads (and surrounded on all sides by highways, for the road running west to Colony street, already described, was still in existence), stood the home of Amasa Curtis, in which he and Isaac Lewis kept store. Across the street to the west and a little north was Seth D. Plum's tavern.

All these places have been described before, and the risk of repetition has been run so that the view of the village street may be made clear in one's mind. Almost opposite the Plum place on the east side of the street but a little to the north, stood the Jeremiah Farrington homestead, which, although much altered, is still standing, and now the dwelling of Frederick W. Ives, No. 391 Broad street.

When this street or turnpike was cut through it left the house of Samuel Yale in a peculiar plight. He had bought a lot on the east side of Curtis street which then ran north and continued down to Liberty street. It is difficult to picture in one's mind just the situation: the house must have stood so that the west portion would, if in existence, stand somewhere near the east part of the old

Methodist church (now occupied by the Meriden Curtain Fixture Co. office, 440 Broad). The turnpike took a course just east of the Yale house and left it with no backyard. As the land from this house to the church was a public green, with streets on the east and west sides,[1] the house became an eyesore, and at a town meeting held May 17, 1808, it was voted "to make an accommodation with Samuel Yale, to have his house at the south end of the green removed to some other place, so as to accommodate the public, and voted to buy the land where house stands." The house was accordingly removed to the northeast corner of Broad and East Main streets, and reposed there until the Bassett brick block was built, when it again started on its travels and found a final abiding place a little to the east; it is perhaps the old building still standing there and said to have once been used by Samuel, Jr., and William Yale for manufacturing tin ware.

South of this old house, before its removal, stood the center district school house in what is now the northeast corner of the old cemetery,[2] and where stands the house of Dr. Frederick P. Griswold, No. 481 Broad street, was located the homestead and shoe store of John Butler.

On the other side of the street to the northwest stood the church, with Roswell Cowles' Sabbath day house south of it, and two or three other small houses like it north of the church on the other side of the street. East of these buildings on the corner was the tavern belonging to Dr. Hough; on the southeast corner of Broad and East Main, stood the store of Amos White, and the building served as his dwelling as well; while east and southeast of it was another collection of Sabbath day houses.

North of Amos White's store on the other side of the street was a triangular piece of land which had been formed in this way: in 1782 Samuel Hall, son of Rev. Theophilus, had deeded to the town a strip of land for a highway, beginning at East Main, just one hundred and sixty-five feet east of his house (later the tavern) and running due north to Liberty street.[1] The land from the house to this new street was the garden of both Samuel Hall and Dr. Hough until the turnpike on Broad street was cut through in 1799: this we learn from the description in the deed when Dr. Hough bought the property in 1792. At the same time that this new street was opened, the town closed the north end of old Curtis street running from just west of the meeting house, north to Liberty street, and also

1 Saml Yale was given only $57 damages by the turnpike company for thus disturbing the house lot.

2 This site was later occupied by the Baptist church built about 1831 and when the new church was built in 1848 this old building became the academy where many still living received their education. On March 23, 1805, the selectmen sold to Seth D. Plum a "strip of highway lying a little south of the meeting house, running north and south from the school house to old Sabbath day house belonging to Roswell Cowles & is 1 rod & 4 links wide at north end where Sabbath day house is and 1 rod & 8 links at the South end." Wall. land records, Vol. XXXII., p. 18. On Feb. 22, 1831, Amos Curtis, acting as agent for the Center school district sold this school house site to Wm. Yale for the Baptist society.

1 Wallingford land records, Vol. XXIII., p. 67.

opened up a highway from the meeting house, running west and meeting Liberty street at what is now the town hall site: viz. East Main street.

On the triangular piece of land east of the tavern, was a barn for the convenience of the stage coach line.

Just opposite the old brick bank building on Broad street and just south of the house known as No. 544, are still to be seen the foundation walls of an old dwelling built probably in 1792 by Moses Barns,[2] sometimes of Cheshire and then of Reading, Mass., and finally of Meriden; but in 1806 it was the homestead of Jarius Mix; later it was the dwelling of Isaac Lewis, who bought it about 1813, and afterwards it was the home of William Merriam and is still remembered as a boarding place where Episcopal clergymen were carefully looked after. Mrs. Merriam has the reputation of having been the first milliner in Meriden; the house disappeared a number of years ago.

The second house north of the Barns place is known as the Beckett homestead, but it was built in 1792 by Jared Benham and for many years he dwelt there; it will be noticed that it does not stand square with Broad street, because it was built to front on the highway deeded by Samuel Hall in 1782.

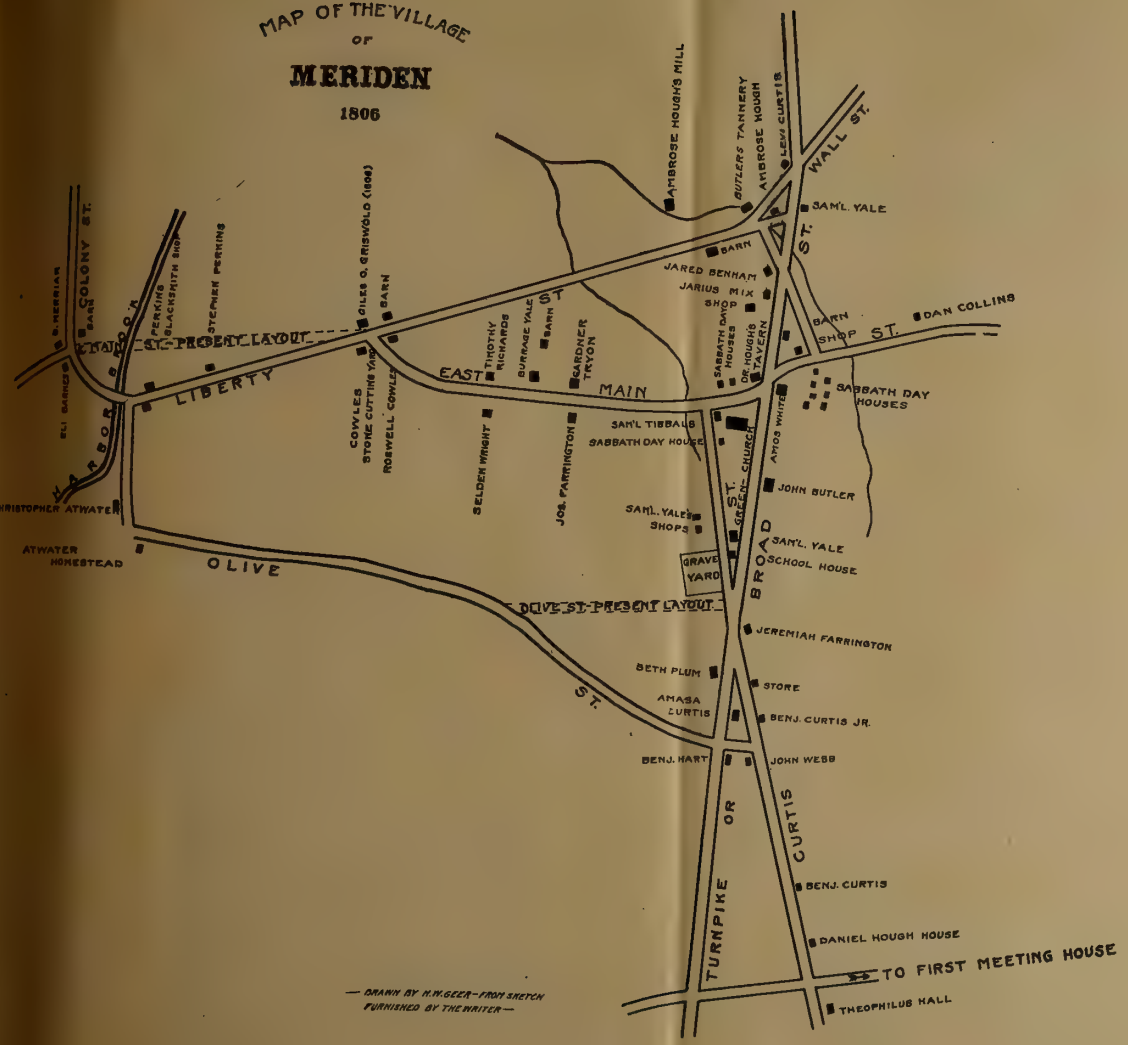
On the other side of the street stands the old Willard house built about 1787 by the parson, but as already stated, formerly located one hundred feet north of its present site. In 1806 it was the home of Samuel Yale;[1] west of this at the corner of Liberty and Broad streets was the Ambrose Hough place already described and now the home of Walter B. Hall.

North of this house was the old Jerome homestead, occupied in 1806 by Levi Curtis and at that time it was probably the last house on Broad street going north, for the Edmund Wilcox place, No. 721, was built about 1813 by Archibald Plum, and the old Belden house, No. 692, was probably erected in the same year by Ira Andrews, and the Asahel Curtis dwelling, No. 1065, just south of Britannia street, was probably built by Joel Yale in 1807.

In going west from the meeting house we would have come first to the homestead of Samuel Tibbals, only a hundred feet or so west of it, and the old house has only recently disappeared; further down the road, and probably on the site of Dr. John Tait's house, No. 244 East Main street, stood a dwelling built by Yale I. (the eldest son of Dr. Hough) but in 1806 the home of Gardner Tryon: on the other side of the street on about the site now occupied by a small building, once the office of Dr. Archer, stood a house occupied by Joseph Farrington, and west of the Tryon dwelling, perhaps where George Clark's residence now stands, No. 222, was the home of Burrage Yale, who afterwards moved to South Reading, Mass., and became a manufacturer of tinware. At this time his father, Amerton

2 He died in 1816 and his inventory contains the first notice we have of a stove in Meriden. The item appears as stove and pipe $10.

1 Wallingford land records, Vol. XXX., p. 426.


MAP OF THE VILLAGE
OF
MERIDEN
1806
AMBROSE HOUGH'S MILL
BUTLERS TANNERY
AMBROSE HOUGH
LEWIS CURTIS
WALL ST.
SAM'L. YALE
BARN
JARED BENHAM
JARIUS MIX
SHOP
BARN
SHOP ST.
DAN COLLINS
SABBATH DAY HOUSES
DR. HOUGHS TAVERN
COLONY ST.
G. MERRIAN
BARN
PERKINS BLACKSMITH SHOP
STEPHEN PERKINS
GILES O. GRISWOLD (1696)
BARN
PRESENT LAYOUT
LIBERTY
EAST MAIN ST
TIMOTHY RICHARDS
BURRAGE YALE
BARN
GARDNER TRYON
ELI BARNES
HARBOR
COWLES STONE CUTTING YARD
ROSWELL COWLES
SELDEN WRIGHT
JOS. FARRINGTON
SAM'L TISBALS
SABBATH DAY HOUSE
AMOS WHITE
SAM'L. YALES SHOPS
ST. GREEN CHURCH
JOHN BUTLER
SAM'L. YALE
SCHOOL HOUSE
GRAVE YARD
BROAD ST.
CHRISTOPHER ATWATER
ATWATER HOMESTEAD
OLIVE
OLIVE ST. PRESENT LAYOUT
JEREMIAH FARRINGTON
BETH PLUM
STORE
AMASA CURTIS
BENJ. CURTIS JR.
BENJ. HART
JOHN WEBB
TURNPIKE OR CURTIS ST.
BENJ. CURTIS
DANIEL HOUGH HOUSE
TO FIRST MEETING HOUSE
THEOPHILUS HALL
— DRAWN BY H.M.GEER—FROM SKETCH FURNISHED BY THE WRITER—

Yale, was probably living with him, who had served in the Revolution and was noted as a musician, being a skillful performer on the violin and flute.

Only one of the old houses of 1806 on East Main street is still standing, and that is located just west of the homestead of E. B. Everitt. Its number is 194, and when the town was incorporated it was the dwelling of Timothy Richards, and near at hand he had a shop where he made hats. He sold the house in 1807 to Elisha A. Cowles and it was probably here that the Major first started in the mercantile business, for the windows bear the appearance of at some time having been used for displaying goods. It was afterwards owned by Samuel Tibbals, and was for many years the home of John Mecorney; it is now the property of E. B. Everitt.

On the south side of the street, opposite the Mecorney residence, was the dwelling of Selden Wright, and on the town hall site, stood the home of Roswell Cowles, the brother of the Major, and the property consisting of house and two acres, was sold to the town in 1853 by Roswell's widow. His stone cutting yard has already been described as occupying the site across the street where now stands the Wilmot place.

Where stands St. Andrew's church was the old Nathaniel Merriam place (in 1806 the home of Giles O. Griswold) and on the site of the north part of Main Street Baptist church was the homestead of Simeon Perkins, afterwards occupied by Sherlock, his son; the old building now stands on Veteran street.

Doubtless there were other houses in the central part of the town in 1806 that have escaped the notice of the writer, but in the main the buildings mentioned constituted the village of Meriden. Accompanying is a map which at a glance explains the plan as related in the text.

Some of the early town votes are interesting and those relating to the running at large of geese, cattle and boars illustrate the primitive conditions of the time.

One of the first votes after the town was fully organized was one instructing the selectmen to open the street now called Griswold: this was on Dec. 1, 1806. On Feb. 23, 1807, it was voted that the books of the public library be kept by the town clerk (who was then Isaac Lewis) and that they be loaned out for four weeks only, and any one who kept a book longer than this was to be subject to a fine of 25 cents and an increasing forfeiture of one cent per day until returned.[1] Previous to 1807 Britannia street, east of Griswold, ran around the south side of the swamp and the marks of this old section can still be plainly traced: on May 25, 1807, it was voted to change the layout by running it directly across the swamp.

In those days one was permitted to work out one's taxes by assisting in repairing the highways and on Nov. 16, 1807, it was voted that the rate allowed for this work should be 75 cents per day in the spring and 67 cents in the fall. On Nov. 14, 1815, the rate was changed to $1.25 in the spring and $1 in the fall.

1 A full account of this first library will be found in an article by the writer on page 46, Part II.

On May 6, 1811, it was voted to sell strips of the old highway made no longer necessary by the opening of the turnpike to Middletown which had been built in 1809. On Nov. 9, 1813, it was voted to close the highway from foot of hill running to Elisha A. Cowles no longer needed on account of the opening of the Southington turnpike in 1812. This was that part of old Liberty street which ran across the present site of the Main street Baptist church and coming out at the South Colony street bridge.

On Sept. 15, 1816, it was voted that the town bell (located in the church steeple) should be rung at 9 and 10:30 o'clock a. m. and 1 o'clock on Sundays and on all other days at 12 noon and 9 o'clock at night. On Oct. 4, 1824, it was voted to close the road from East Main to Liberty streets that had been laid out in Samuel Hall's land in 1782.

On Aug. 3rd, 1812, a large liberty pole was erected on the green, presumably somewhere near the church.[1] Among the papers preserved by Mrs. Hiram A. Yale is a bill of expense incurred in the undertaking which include the following:

To Asahel Merriam for oxen half a day	.34
To Paid Dan Andrews for mending chain broke in service	.25
Paid for ensign	8.00
Paid for halyards	1.25
Paid for 10 lbs. powder	8.78
Paid for carting pole	.50
Paid for waggon & time to Middletown	1.00
Paid for Wm. Yale's bill for entertaining on Aug. 3.	10.00
Paid for 2 quts rum	.67
Paid for cannon	2.00

These items with others paid to various persons brought the total cost of pole ensign and entertainment to $58.18.

Imprisonment for debt was common in those days and the following is a copy of a letter written by one who was in torments dire.

"New Haven Oct 6 1825

Mr Samuel Yale Sir

Please to lett Mr Lawrence know what you think Lewis will do about keeping me here after Monday and Please Be to see Father or some other But speak to him first about Being a Bondsman till Monday for I dont want to stay in close confinement till then. Please to send me word about all I have writ

Yours respectfully

Samuel Tibbals Jr.

Please take this trouble for me and I will pay you all you ask."

1 Many still living remember a flag pole which stood where the elm tree now stands just south of watering trough at junction of Broad and East Main streets.

In the year 1812 an association was formed for the detection of thieves and bringing them to their just deserts. Before the writer as he pens these lines is a copy of the constitution of the society which is headed.

"Constitution of the
Meriden Association for the
Detection of Thieves and Recovery of Stolen Property"

The main object of combining in this way seems to have been to bring horse thieves to justice. Article VII. reads, "It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a box of tickets, with each member's name written thereon for the purpose of drafting men, to pursue the thief or thieves, and to recover property stolen." The articles would lead one to believe there had been much crime of this nature committed and that the society was more or less a "Vigilance Committee."

The sources of information relating to the life of the people in this quiet country village during the early years of the last century are not abundant and doubtless events were few and far between and little of interest transpired that would appeal to us to-day or that made much impression on those who were then active on the stage of life. That Meriden was to have a life different from most quiet country farming communities was hardly dreamed by any one of that period. There was one man who insisted that the day would come when a corner lot in the village of Meriden would bring as much as a thousand dollars; but he was considered crazy and no one paid much attention to his vagaries or dreamed that his wild prophecies contained an element of truth, until he was dead and gone, and building lots had really begun to creep up to a figure that approached the hallucinations of his cloudy brain: then people remembered his sayings, and wondered if he did not know more than was suspected during his life.

The source of the increase in real estate values in Meriden was, of course, in the manufactures and the story of the beginnings and early growth of the industries of Meriden deserves a chapter of its own.

CHAPTER XX.

There was little about the town in its early days which indicated that some day it would grow to a place of considerable size: it was simply a quiet, peaceful community, bent on getting a living as best it could from the rather sterile soil; and that the farms were not as productive as they once had been seems to be indicated in various ways.

The houses built after 1790 until a considerably later date were not so capacious and roomy as those of an earlier period, and the inventories of estates had also begun to dwindle in amounts, and many of them were pitifully small when compared with those of the first settlers. Evidently the feeling became prevalent that some other resource besides farming was necessary to make the town a growing, thriving place, and this feeling soon manifested itself by the establishment of many small shops and factories.

As early as 1802 there was a shop of some kind standing on a part of the land now occupied by the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co. A deed dated in that year conveyed from John Hooker to Eli Barnes a tract of land at the southwestern corner of Colony and Main streets, containing eighteen acres, most of the extent being in an easterly and westerly direction and it was bounded on the south by the land of the firm of Rice, Yale & Co. What they made or who the parties were is not certain, but the Yale was perhaps Samuel Yale. He seems to have been the first manufacturer in Meriden, if we do not consider those who owned grist, fulling and sawmills. Mr. Perkins in his history ays that in "1791 Samuel Yale began to manufacture cut nails. He and his son worked in a small shop on the hill, near the present site of the Center Congregational church. Their little machine was worked by their own hands, and each nail was 'headed' separately and by hand. About the year 1794 the same Mr. Yale commenced the manufacture of buttons on a small scale. They were made of pewter, and would be considered by us a very rough article." This shop was probably on land adjoining the old Methodist church on Broad street, for in 1808 he sold to Seth D. Plum a piece of land where his blacksmith and tinshop then stood, which was evidently a part of the same tract on which the old house was presenting such an annoying spectacle to the public, and which was removed at about the same date. He probably then established his business on Liberty street near Ambrose Hough's mill; he died in 1810 and his sons, Samuel Jr. and William, carried on the same line in a building still standing back of the Bassett block at the northeast corner of Broad and East Main streets. William, who died much earlier than Samuel, Jr., viz. in 1833, apparently at that

time owned a small shop just north of his dwelling. This house is still standing and known as No. 447 Broad street, and now occupied by James H. Kelsey. These brothers, William and Samuel, were for many years quite extensively engaged in manufacturing metal buttons and tinware, and must have employed many hands for they sent travelers, or peddlers as they were called, into various parts of the country, and the writer has been fortunate enough to examine a number of papers and documents,[1] which reveal a little of the character of the business, and the manner of conducting it. Following is a copy of a contract with a peddler that is interesting:

"Articles of agreement made and entered into by and between William and Samuel Yale of Meriden in New Haven county on the one part and Amos Francis of Wallingford in said county on the other part witnesseth, viz. I the said Amos Francis agree on my part to hawk, peddle and vend such articles as the said Yales shall deliver me for that purpose in any part of the United States they shall see fit to send me for the term of ten months from the 1st day of October next and to furnish a good horse, waggon and harness and to be faithful in their said employ during said term of time to be fully completed and ended; And we the said William and Samuel agree to pay the said Amos Francis for his said services thirty dollars per month certain wages, forty dollars per month, if said Francis clears it over and above the first cost of his load and expenses, and one-half of all profits over and above said forty dollars that he, the said Francis, shall actually clear. Dated at Meriden, this 3rd day of Sept., 1816

William Yale,
Samuel Yale,
Amos Francis."

The following is somewhat different from a modern communication of a traveling salesman to his employer.

"Newburgh, West Branch of the Susquehannah River,
May 11, 1814.

Worthy Patron:

Where to begin or end my uncouth epistle I know not, but upon reflection will try to compose my mind while I inform you that I shall sink one hundred dollars at least unless fortune turns the scale in my favor.

R. Baldwin and I have traversed the country from Dan to Beersheba, besides going to Albany, and I have not sold either buttons or spoons to any amount. The reason which people give for not purchasing those articles is

1 Through the kindness of Mrs. Hiram A. Yale, widow of the son of Samuel Yale, Jr.

that the embargo is repealed, an armistice on foot and peace at the very door, when all these things are to be showered down upon them as Manna was to the Israelites.

Moses [Baldwin] has gone to Pittsburgh to see what may be done there while I am cruising about here & there wherever the spirit moves as I thought it would hardly quit cost for me to go any farther. Tin goes extremely well.

Your well wisher till Death,

Warren P. Stone.

Mr. Samuel Yale."

President Timothy Dwight, of Yale College, made a trip up this valley on the way to the White Mountains in the early part of the last century, and has this to say regarding these salesmen:[1] "The manner in which this ware is disposed of puts to flight all calculation. A young man is furnished by the proprietor with a horse, and a cart covered with a box, containing as many tin vessels as the horse can conveniently draw. This vehicle within a few years has, indeed, been frequently exchanged for a wagon; and then the load is doubled. Thus prepared he sets out on an expedition for the winter. A multitude of these young men direct themselves to the Southern States, and in their excursions travel wherever they can find settlements. Each of them walks and rides alternately through this vast distance till he reaches Richmond, Newbern, Charleston or Savannah; and usually carries with him to the place of his destination no small part of the gain, which he has acquired upon the road. Here he finds one or more workmen, who have been sent forward to co-operate with him, furnished with a sufficient quantity of tinned plates to supply him with all the ware which he can sell during the season. With this he wanders into the interior country; calls at every door on his way; and with an address and pertinacity, not easily resisted, compels no small number of the inhabitants to buy. At the commencement of summer they return to New York: and thence to New Haven, by water; after selling their vehicles, and their horses. The original load of a single horse, as I am told, is rarely worth more than three hundred dollars; or of a wagon more than six hundred. Yet this business is said to yield both the owner and his agent valuable returns." "I have seen them on the peninsula of Cape Cod, and in the neighborhood of Lake Erie: distant from each other more than six hundred miles. They make their way to Detroit, four hundred miles farther; to Canada; to Kentucky; and if I mistake not to New Orleans and St. Louis." The Rev. President waxes eloquent in his description of the damage to the character of these agents and paints with a feeling pen their generally demoralizing conduct while engaged in this business: but as the career of a salesman was then a novelty in this country, it is possible that the author

1 Travels in New England and New York, Vol. 2, pp. 53-4.

was unduly alarmed and that they were not so black in their actions and heart as he believed.

His remarks were given in his sketch of Berlin which was then a much more important place in the business world than Meriden, and where the manufacture had been begun a long time previous to the Yale venture in Meriden. The pioneer in Berlin was William Pattison, a native of Ireland, who settled there about 1740. Of Meriden President Dwight says, "a small neat village on a handsome eminence in the center of the parish. The remainder of the township is distributed into farms." "The business of manufacturing culinary utensils from tin plates has been considerably extended; and is becoming a source of wealth to the inhabitants. Fruit trees usually blossom here on the Southern declevity of the hills, in the valley at the bottom, three or four days earlier than at New Haven."

The Yales continued in the business for many years, and both accumulated for the times considerable property, and were held in high esteem in the community: the son of William, General Edwin R. Yale, was also extensively engaged in this manufacture, and his shops were back of his homestead, No. 405 Broad street. He left here finally to engage in the hotel business in New York where he was for a number of years proprietor of the United States Hotel and later of the Mansion House, Brooklyn.

Another early manufacturer of tinware in Meriden was Partrick Clark, who as will be remembered, bought the old Jonathan Collins place on North Colony road, of his father-in-law in 1806. He evidently at once engaged in the business, for in 1813, he was enough of a factor in the "tin world" to be one of the signers of an agreement to maintain prices—doubtless the first document of the sort ever drawn up in this vicinity. It is as follows:

"June 16 1813 We the Subscribers each and every one of us agree not to sell off tin ware Plain & Japann^{d} below the prices affixed to the several articles.

Shubael Paterson, Orin Beckley, Saml Paterson, John Dunham 2^{d}, Samuel Gilbert, John Goodrich Jun., Aziel Belden, John Bucknum, John Hubbard, Benj^{m} Willcox, Samuel Kelsey, Partrick Clark."

This agreement was followed by a list of the articles manufactured with the minimum prices annexed. Evidently all these names were those of Berlin men with the exception of Partrick Clark, and possibly later the names of the Yales were attached, for the original of the above was itself a copy, and was found among the Yale papers, where, perhaps, it was preserved as a memorandum.

Partrick Clark's shop was just south of his house where he was engaged in manufacturing many years. His sons, Samuel, Partrick, Jr., and for a while, Judge James S. Brooks, engaged in the business in a shop that stood on the present site of the Meriden Savings Bank on East Main street: the old wooden building was built there more than fifty years ago. For many years the firm located here was known as Stedman & Clark.

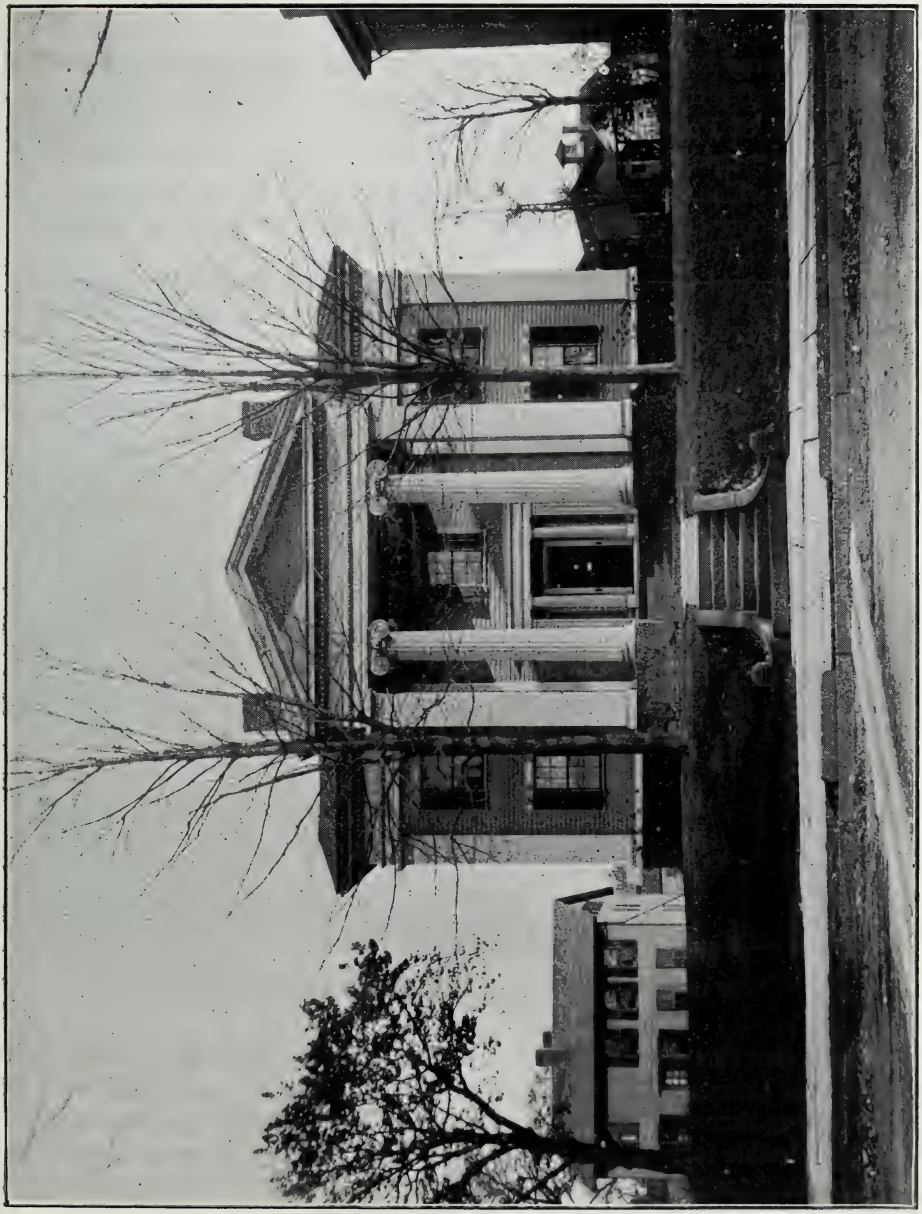
Another prominent manufacturer in the early days of the town was Partrick Lewis, who in 1826 bought of Dr. Isaac I. Hough, the old tavern, and not only performed the functions of "mine host," but also started a store in the old building, probably in one of the additions, which plainly show in the illustration that they were not of the same date, as that part covered by the gambrel roof. He was then only twenty-five years old but was enterprising and energetic; and he also began at this time the manufacture of tinware in a small shop on or near the spot now occupied by Birdsey & Raven's store, No. 294 East Main street. He took as a partner Elias Holt, also an enterprising and resourceful man, and began to enlarge the business, fitting up a barn in the rear of the brick block which formerly stood just north of the residence of Eli C. Birdsey: here they made tea and coffee pots, candle sticks, molasses gates, etc., etc., and soon finding their quarters too small they built a shop just west of the junction of High and East Main streets, which to-day is a dwelling house and was once occupied by Charles Parker and later by George C. Merriam. Mr. Lewis also built the brick block just referred to, which was devoted to a general mercantile business. This was the site of the store and dwelling of Amos White. The young men did a large business for the times, and but for some untoward circumstances which they could not control, they would have built up a large industry.[1]

But fate was unkind or human judgment was at fault, for on January 6, 1834, on the petition of Mr. Lewis, the firm of Lewis & Holt was compelled to go into bankruptcy with liabilities of more than $75,000.

A copy of this petition is before the writer as he pens these lines, and contains a formidable list of creditors. The failure was considered a bad blow to the community, for the citizens were proud of the enterprising young manufacturers whose products embraced a wide variety of articles for household uses in tinware. Sympathy seems to have been particularly felt for Mr. Lewis, for he was a man of integrity and honor, and it was he who, when he knew the crash could not be averted, insisted that the bankruptcy proceedings be taken at once rather than continue and make a more disastrous failure later. Capt. Almeron Miles took the business and carried it on for a while but eventually Charles Parker bought the factory at the corner of High and East Main streets, and later when he had begun to manufacture in the factories which are the nucleus of the extensive works southwest of this spot, he altered the shop into a dwelling.

Mr. Lewis, when profits were large and the future looked rosy with promise in the year 1830, built the dignified old mansion at No. 497 Broad street, now the home of Eli C. Birdsey; it was the first fine dwelling to be erected in Meriden, and was well and carefully constructed, and the carved mantels and door casings and paneling, and the mahogany stair railings and general details show that the thought of failure was far from his mind.

1 These facts are from memoranda furnished the late Dr. Chapin by the late Isaac C. Lewis.



PARTRICK LEWIS, NOW THE ELI C. BIRDSEY HOUSE.

Mr. Holt also built a substantial and pleasing dwelling in the same year, which stands on the east corner of Main and High streets, and is now the home of Mrs. Russell Coe.

Noah Pomeroy came here in the year 1817, and immediately bought the old Benjamin A. Hall farm in East Meriden, with the homestead which formerly stood at the junction of Pomeroy and Murdock avenues and has since been moved a short distance eastward. He must have at once begun the manufacture of tinware in shops which he built across the street from his house to the east. The factories have now all disappeared, and one would never imagine from present



ELIAS HOLT, NOW THE MRS. RUSSELL COE HOUSE.

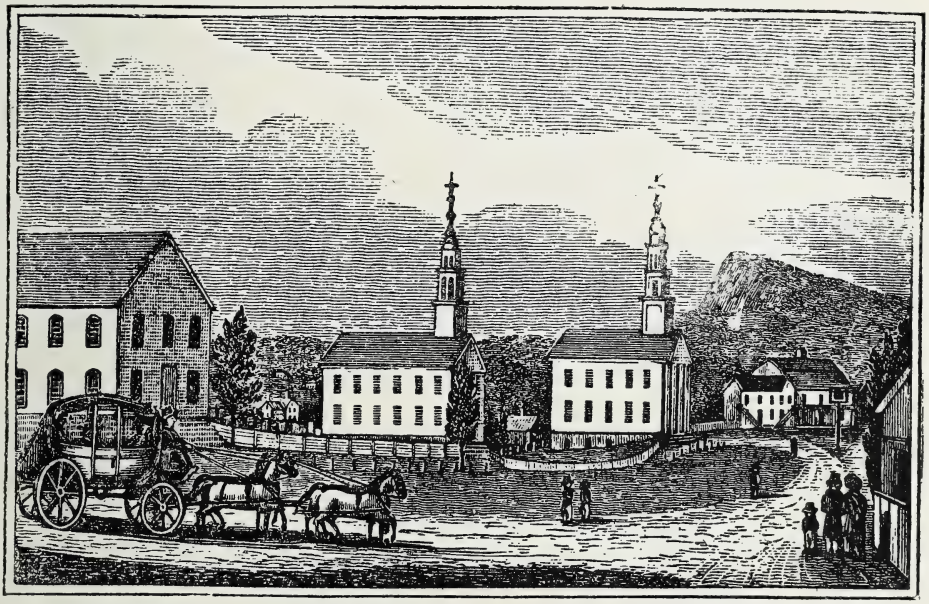
appearances that this was for many years the busiest locality in Meriden, for he engaged very extensively in the production of this line of goods, and employed more workmen than any other manufacturer in town, until 1845 when he retired with a comfortable fortune; his sons continued the business for a number of years.

The manufactories so far mentioned were the more prominent ones, and they are all remembered by people still living, but an examination of the land records has revealed the fact that there were in those early days, a number of other men

engaged in the production of tinware, metal and bone buttons and wooden combs, who probably in the aggregate sent large quantities of their wares into the markets.

Of course, the records will not disclose all these small shops, for one would not be mentioned in a deed without the owner sold his plant; in a few instances they are included in the inventories of estates on the probate records.

In 1808 Sidney and Arba Merriam were manufacturing buttons in a shop that was located somewhere in the vicinity of the Parker Clock Co. plant in what we know as Crow Hollow and it was still in existence in 1815; in 1808 Seth D. Plum, as already related, bought Samuel Yale's old tin shop which stood near the present site of the old Methodist church and continued the manufacture until 1835; in 1814



MERIDEN CENTER ABOUT 1834, LOOKING NORTH FROM THE JUNCTION OF CURTIS AND BROAD STREETS.[1]

The building on the left, before which the stage coach is passing, is the Episcopal Church, the next is the Baptist Church (which stood at the northeast corner of the graveyard, afterwards the Meriden Academy), the third is the Congregational Church, beyond which stands the old Central Tavern.

Benjamin Buel was making buttons in a building on the land some yards north of the Calvin Coe homestead on Coe avenue, and it was later owned by Jesse Curtis and Spicer Leonard. In 1815 William Lawrence leased of Elisha A. Cowles a button shop south of "Harbor Bridge," "as long as grass grows and water runs,"

1 From Barber's Historical Collections of Connecticut.

and the same year Timothy Richards sold to Mr. Cowles a store standing near the latter's tin shop; this store stood on land just west of the present Record building site. In 1816 Enos Grannis mortgaged to Avery Hall a tin shop that was located somewhere on Ichabod Woods' farm which is now Walnut Grove cemetery, and in 1817 Edward Collins sold to Walter Booth a half interest in his tin shop, which stood on land now belonging to the State School for Boys near the driveway leading from Colony street, and the inventory of Moses Barns who died in 1816 shows that he had a tin shop just west of his house; he was then living in the old dwelling known as the Nathaniel Merriam place, standing where St. Andrew's church is now located.

In 1813 Asahel Curtis and Isaac Lewis were manufacturing buttons in a shop near the residence known as No. 1065 Broad street and at about the same date Enos H. Curtis was making like articles on Curtis street, and Amos Curtis was engaged in the same kind of business in a shop south of his house at the junction of Broad and Curtis streets, and Henry Peck was making tinware in a building that stood west of the Belden house, No. 692 Broad street. At an early date Lauren Merriam was in the same business in a factory that stood a little north of the junction of Foster and Colony streets.

And in the year 1820 Abel Sanford was manufacturing spoons in a shop which stood somewhere on the farm now owned by Julius Ives on the hill just west of the village of Hanover, for in that year he sold his farm to Jesse Ives, reserving his spoon shop, and Ives sold the Meriden House corner to Sanford, reserving his tailor shop standing on it.

This list by no means exhausts the catalogue of these small shops located in various parts of the town, but further extension would but make patience cease to be a virtue and could serve no useful purpose.

In the year 1819 Amasa Merriam leased to Lauren Merriam and Edward Collins under the firm name of Collins and Merriam the right to erect a dam twenty rods northwest of their comb factory which had evidently just been built; this shop stood where the present Parker Clock Co. plant is located in the west part of the town, and in 1822 we find on the town records John B. Collins of Hartford selling to this firm his invention for sawing ivory for combs. This was apparently the beginning of the ivory comb business in Meriden which was for a time an important industry.

In 1827, Collins having died, Merriam sold a half interest in the business to Walter Webb and Albert Foster and it was then continued under the firm name of Walter Webb & Co., and for a number of years the manufacture was carried on in two adjoining shops, one of which is to-day used by the Clock Co.

A few hundred feet west of this spot, on the north side of the turnpike, stands an old house, on an elevation considerably above the road, that was built probably all of a hundred years ago by Noah Merriam, and in it as early as 1829, Albert

Foster was living, and manufacturing bone and metal buttons and other articles, in a shop just across the street, and the outlines of the foundation of the building can still be seen. At the same time John Sutliff was manufacturing goods of a like nature in a factory that stood east of the ivory comb shop, in the point formed by the junction of Johnson avenue and the turnpike: it was afterwards used by Dana Lewis as a button shop and burned down many years ago: some of the foundation stones may still be seen. West of Albert Foster's factory, at a point just east of the fountain, stood a small shop that was used by George Bull for making German silver spoons at about the same date.

The two small plants of Sutliff & Foster were the beginnings of Foster, Merriam & Co. and for a while they ran independently, and then forces were joined and Hiram Foster and Asaph and Nelson Merriam were taken in as partners and the enlarged firm finally located on their present site in the decade following 1840.

Near the main entrance to Hubbard park on the north side of the road, stood until a few years ago, an old stone building known as the Julius Parker foundry: it was built about 1831 or 1832 by Jonathan Leonard who came here from Canton, Mass.; the land was owned by William Johnson, and Leonard leased the right for a term of years to erect a factory and occupy it, and here he carried on the business of casting various kinds of articles and was successful and enterprising.[1] He sold the shop to Charles Parker and in 1835 bought of Homer Curtiss a plant which the latter had built in the east part of Meriden in 1831 in partnership with a man named Walker, and here for a number of years Leonard continued the manufacture of the same class of goods he had produced in Crow Hollow. In the first number of the Meriden Weekly Mercury, dated March 24, 1849, appears an advertisement signed by Jonathan Leonard in New Haven in which he offers for sale "the Water Privilege and Factory owned and occupied by him for the last fourteen years in the easterly part of Meriden." Eventually the shop came into possession of Charles Parker and doubtless the original building is buried somewhere in the depths of the Parker spoon factory.

Mr. Perkins, in his history, says that Julius Pratt began to manufacture ivory combs in Meriden in 1822, and the factory was at first located on Harbor brook on the south side on land now occupied by Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co. and the old dam which formerly stood there furnished the water power: but finding it not sufficient for his purpose, he bought in 1824 a tract of land on Broad street which is now covered mostly by Pratt's pond: here he built a dam, and a factory on the south side, probably, and again began the manufacture of combs, and in the same year he admitted as partners, Thomas Howard, of Providence, R. I., Alpheus Starkey, George Reid, John C. Rodgers and George Spencer, of Saybrook, and Fenner Bush, of Meriden: not finding the premises large enough, the firm, known as Howard Pratt & Co., in 1828, bought of Walter Booth ten acres, which gave suf-

1 Eugene Leonard, his son, gave these facts to the writer.

ficient room for a raceway, and a new factory at present occupied by Miller Bros. Cutlery Co. on Pratt street. The firm did a large business and was prosperous, notwithstanding misfortunes by fire, etc. Mr. Pratt was a man of resource and enterprise and ranked high in the community; his home stood just south of the dam and the old dwelling is still there, while just north of the dam stands the house built by his partner, Fenner Bush. The firm continued in business many years and was later known as Julius Pratt & Co. Mr. Perkins gives a description of the processes of manufacture, in his history, and Mrs. Breckenridge writes entertainingly in her "Recollections" of both Mr. Pratt and Mr. Bush and relates facts pertaining to the ups and downs of the business. According to the table at the end of this chapter Mr. Pratt was making cutlery also in 1845.

Philo Pratt & Co. was the name of another comb manufacturing establishment that was located at Hanover: the building stood on land closely adjoining the present Meriden Cutlery Co. plant at the south end and the business was finally absorbed by Walter Webb & Co., and this latter company took possession of the factory and sold the old one in Crow Hollow to Charles Parker, where for a number of years he made locks.

When Julius Pratt gave up the factory where Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co. is now located, it was leased by the owner, Elisha A. Cowles, in 1828, to N. C. Sanford & Co., of which firm the following gentlemen were partners, viz: Fenner Bush, Julius Pratt, Nathaniel Sanford and Howell Merriman, and this company began the manufacture of augers. They stayed there until 1832 when they moved to Hanover and bought the plant of Carter, Goodrich and Bishop, who for some time had been making bone buttons in a factory located just south of the old tenement houses near where the road turns and comes out at Archer's Corner. The remains of the old raceway can still be seen west of the road after leaving the bridge, and running south to where the factory was standing. The firm of N. C. Sanford & Co. afterwards moved to Yalesville and the shop they built is now occupied by the Jennings & Griffin Co.

In 1834 the plant on Harbor brook abandoned by N. C. Sanford & Co. was sold to Homer Curtiss and Harlow Isbell, trading under the name of Curtiss, Isbell & Co., who had previously been located in a plant west of where the Meriden House now stands, just back of the Lewis block. This firm was enterprising and successful in making door latches, locks and builders' hardware. Mr. Isbell finally moved to Kansas and Mr. Curtiss then formed a partnership with a Mr. Morgan and the new company was known as Curtiss, Morgan & Co. and continued to do business at this stand until January, 1854, when the firm, to the great regret of the whole community, was compelled to make an assignment through endorsing for Curtis L. North.

Benjamin and Hiram Twiss began the manufacture of clocks in 1828 and located their factory near the east end of Pratt's pond where it could be seen

from Broad street and they built for power purposes a dam which formed a pond still known by their name: after a number of years the business was moved to Canada.

In East Meriden, or Bangall, more than seventy years ago, Orsamus Crocker built a factory in the point of land formed by the junction of Cone avenue and Middletown turnpike, which was designed for the making of clocks, but the business proving a failure, it was occupied later by Crocker on the upper floor making wooden combs and drawer pulls, while William J. Ives made suspenders on the lower floor. Isaac C. Lewis was at one time engaged in making britannia ware in the same building.[1]

David W. Ropes began the business of manufacturing table cutlery in Meriden in 1845, and located in Hanover just north of the Walter Webb & Co. factory and later he formed a partnership with Julius H. Pratt and Walter Webb under the firm name of Pratt, Ropes, Webb & Co., and in 1855 the business was merged into a corporation bearing the present name of Meriden Cutlery Co. and there it has since continued, a successful and prosperous concern.

Henry T. Wilcox came to Meriden in 1829 and entered the employ of Julius Pratt & Co. About 1845 he built a small shop a little south of his house, No. 400 North Colony street, where for a number of years he made coffee mills, spring balances, steelyards, iron bit braces and door knockers. The first shop was burned in 1851, and a second built on the same site was burned in 1853.

Undoubtedly, many of the early industries have been omitted in the foregoing pages, but sufficient have been given to show that Meriden had become a perfect hive of manufactories by 1850 and this in the face of the fact that there were few advantages such as are usually considered necessities when a community is engaged in industrial pursuit: that such a situation should have developed was due wholly to the genius of the people; they were determined to succeed and they did: and as one looks over the roll of manufacturers of Meriden since 1800, one is conscious that there have been some great men among the number—men who with more natural advantages would have achieved much bigger results.

Some of the difficulties of manufacturing in Meriden in the early days will be realized when it is remembered that there was a very limited amount of water power in the township, which probably accounts for the great number of tin shops which did not require such power: added to this situation it was necessary to cart all finished and raw material to and from Middletown and New Haven, until the railroad was opened in 1838.

The population of Meriden during the first fifty years was as follows:

1810, 1,249; 1820, 1,309; 1830, 1,708; 1840, 1,880; 1850, 3,559.

1 This factory, then owned by Ives, Lewis & Co., was destroyed by fire, Thursday night, June 27, 1867. The Recorder tells us there were three buildings in the group, and they were used for making hoop skirts, skirt tape and webbing.

Out of the 1,249 persons in 1820, 105 were engaged in manufacturing and of the 1,880 people in town in 1840, 406 were working in factories, either as employer or employee, or 21½ per cent.—a very large proportion. To show the difference between the two communities at this date it may be stated that Wallingford, with a population of 2,204, had only 118 engaged in manufacturing, or about five per cent.

A Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island by Pease & Niles, published in 1819, has this to say about Meriden:

"A spirit of enterprise and activity in business characterizes the inhabitants of this town. Various manufactures and mechanical employments are carried on; but those of tin ware and buttons are the most important. There are five distinct Factories of the former, and equal number of the latter, for making metal buttons; and 1 Factory for ivory buttons. There are also 1 Factory for ivory combs; and 2 block tin or hard metal spoon Factories. The wares and manufactures of these establishments, like those of other towns in the vicinity, are sent abroad for a market. This furnishes employment for a number of hands; and it has been estimated that there are 20 to 40 persons that are constantly employed in vending the wares that are manufactured in this town. Most of them are employed in the southern and western states, which afford an extensive market for the products of our industry. And this market will not be likely soon to fail, for wherever slavery prevails, mechanical ingenuity and industry will be excluded. In addition there are 12 Cider Distilleries, 2 Grain Mills, 1 Fulling Mill, 1 Carding Machine and 2 Tanneries. There are 2 Mercantile Stores and 2 Taverns."

The Gazetteer of the U. S. published in 1833 has this to say about Meriden: "An important manufacturing place but with little water power: $1,000,000 annually produced: 1 company has 230[1] hands in making britannia coffee pots, spoons, coffee mills, waffle irons, signal lanthorns: $200,000: other manufactures are wooden clocks value $50,000; ivory, wood, boxwood and horn combs value $40,000: auger bits and rakes value $20,000; tin ware value $90,000: another manufacturer of britannia ware $250,000; there are other manufactures of Japanned ware, shoes, boots: some very useful inventions have originated here; first branch of manufacture extensively engaged in here was that of tin ware."

In 1833 the Meriden Bank was organized with a capital of $100,000, and opened for business at once or very shortly after in the old brick block on North Broad street still known as the "bank building."

A very large percentage of growth was shown by Meriden in the decade from 1840 to 1850 when the population rose from 1,880 to 3,559 or nearly 100 per cent.

The following table of manufactories in Meriden in 1845, compiled by Howell Merriman and filed with the Secretary of State, is a fitting ending to this account of the early industries. The writer has sketched a short account of the early manufacturers of britannia ware, which will be found on page 37, Part III, of this book.

1 Probably an exaggerated statement.

"A statement of the different manufacturers in the Town of Meriden, as rendered by the Secretary of State, agreeable to an act of the Legislature passed at the May session, 1845.

Kind of Manufactures.	No. Hands.	Names of Manufacturers.	Capital Invested.	Amount Goods Manufactured.	Capital Invested.	Amount Manufactured.	No. Hands.
Tin Ware,	17	L. T. Merriam,	$2,000	$10,000			
Tin Ware,	2	Samuel Yale,	1,000	2,000			
Tin Ware,	32	Stedman & Clark,	18,000	32,000			
Tin Ware,	20	Goodrich & Rutty,	7,000	35,000			
Tin Ware,	3	Hiram Bradley,	2,500	6,000			
Tin Ware,	4	Burr Andrews,	2,000	7,000			
Tin Ware,	2	F. A. Gale,	500	1,500			
Tin Ware,	4	H. W. Curtiss,	1,200	4,000			
Tin Ware,	12	N. Pomeroy,	10,000	15,000	$44,200	$112,500	96
Britannia Ware,	7	Bull, Lyman & Couch,	3,000	9,000			
Britannia Ware,	8	James A. Frary,	4,000	15,000			
Britannia Ware,	3	De Witt Kimberly,	1,500	4,400			
Britannia Ware,	2	Enos H. Curtis,	1,000	1,500			
Britannia Ware,	2	Edwin E. Curtis,	600	1,000			
Britannia Ware,	2	Lemuel J. Curtis,	1,200	3,200			
Britannia Ware,	8	Thomas R. Holt ,	5,000	10,000			
Britannia Ware,	5	Isaac C. Lewis,	3,000	5,000	19,300	49,100	37
Ivory Combs,	45	Julius Pratt & Co.,	80,000	100,000			
Ivory Combs,	35	Walter Webb & Co.,	60,000	80,000	140,000	180,000	80
Cutlery,	50	Julius Pratt & Co.,	15,000	25,000	15,000	25,000	50
Coffee Mills,	12	Chas. Parker,	3,000	20,000			
Coffee Mills and Stillyards,	3	H. T. Wilcox,	1,500	5,460			
Coffee Mills,	2	Foster, Merriam & Co.,	1,000	2,000			
Coffee Mills,	3	Almeron Miles,	1,000	3,000	6,500	30,460	20
Steelyards, etc.,	2	Henry M. Foster,	500	2,000	500	2,000	2
Boots and Shoes,	12	John Butler,	6,000	7,400			
Boots and Shoes,	2½	Ira Preston,	300	425			
Boots and Shoes,	1½	Amasa Sizer,	200	350	6,500	8,175	16
Cigars,	5	Clark & Aamson & R.K.C.	2,000	3,600			
Cigars,	3	Blake, Johnson & Curtis,	1,000	2,400	3,000	6,000	8
Trunks and Harness,	2	R. H. Beckley,	500	1,200			
Trunks and Harness,	2	Chas. Stedman,	600	2,000	1,100	3,200	4
Brass Foundries,	10	Foster, Merriam & Co.,	4,000	10,000			
Brass Foundries,	12	Jared Pratt,	10,000	20,000	*14,000	30,000	22
Hardware,	4	Wm. L. Coan,	1,700	4,000	1,700	4,000	4
Door Handles, casting, etc.	25	Isbell & Curtiss,	12,000	25,000			

* A clerical error in the original manuscript made this amount read $1,400 instead of $14,000.

Kind of Manufactures.	No. Hands.	Names of Manufacturers.	Capital Invested.	Amount Goods Manufactured.	Capital Invested.	Amount Manufactured.	No. Hands.
Door Handles, casting, etc.	38	Charles Parker,	$14,000	$26,000	$26,000	$51,000	63
Augurs, Rakes, etc.,	28	Sanford, Newton & Co.,	12,000	20,000	12,000	20,000	28
Ink Stands, etc.,	3	Stillman & Eastman,	800	2,500	800	2,500	3
Carriages, Wagons, etc.,	9	Ezra Ives,	4,000	4,500			
Carriages, Wagons, etc.,	7	J. W. Russell,	2,000	4,500	6,000	9,000	16
Tools, Pumps, etc.,	20	Oliver Snow & Co.,	8,000	14,000	8,000	14,000	20
Castings, Scales, etc.,	14	Jonathan Leonard,	11,800	19,000	11,800	19,000	14
House Joiners,	20	Asahel Laurence,	5,000	15,000			
House Joiners,	12	Redfield & Butler,	3,000	10,000			
House Joiners,	4	John Davidson,	1,000	2,000			
House Joiners,	5	Wm. D. Coan,	2,000	5,000	11,000	32,000	41
Flour Mills,	2	Almon Andrews,	2,500	3,600	2,500	3,600	2
Clothing,	7	S. S. Green,	700	15,000			
Clothing,	13	E. and E. A. Rice,	1,000	2,000			
Clothing,	4	Wm. Green & Mr. Wood,	500	1,000	2,200	4,500	24
Stone Cutter,	4	Stevens & Peck,	1,200	2,000	1,200	2,000	4
Tin Face Buttons,	4	Lewis & Hough,	200	750	200	750	4
Window Blinds,	2	Elias Baldwin,	250	500	250	500	2
Lumber and Boxes,	3	Edwin Birdsey,	500	2,000	500	2,000	3
Blacksmiths,	4	Stephen Atkins,	2,000	4,000			
Blacksmith,	3	A. R. Johnsons,	300	2,450	2,300	6,450	7
Suspenders and Webbing,	23	Wm. J. Ives,	4,000	10,000			
Suspenders and Webbing,	6	Samuel Cook,	500	2,000	4,500	12,000	29
Wood Combs,	7	Orsamas Crocker,	1,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	7
Stone,	20	Jared R. Cook,	2,000	10,000	2,000	10,000	20
Bone Suspender Buttons	14	Harry Griswold,	6,000	10,000	6,000	10,000	14
		Total.....			$350,050	$651,735	640



PUBLISHED BY RICHARD CLARK, OF PHILADELPHIA, IN 1851. E. M. WOODFORD, SURVEYOR.

CHAPTER XXI.

MERCHANTS.

Mention has already been made of a few of Meriden's early merchants, viz: Amos White and Amasa Curtis and Isaac Lewis, and to them should be added the firm of Butler & Olds, succeeded by John Butler alone, who ran a boot and shoe store on Broad street nearly opposite the Baptist church, and the business was carried on by him for many years.

Major Elisha A. Cowles began his first mercantile venture in the old Mecorney House, at 194 East Main street, as has already been mentioned: in the year 1811 he was in business on the corner bounded east and north by South Colony and East Main streets, for in that year he admitted Joel Merriman to partnership, selling him a half interest; but in 1813 the firm was dissolved. In 1815 Mr. Cowles bought a piece of land just east, where the Rogers block now stands, and, according to one authority, he erected that building in 1840, in company with Dr. Isaac I. Hough, and it was run as a railroad restaurant for a number of years; it was originally a gable-roofed structure. In 1846 Mrs. Cowles sold it to Hervey Rogers, and he ran it as a hotel for twenty years or more.

Major Cowles apparently sold everything that a country store could be expected to carry in stock, and he was in the undertaking business as well, for the writer has come across one bill for such services. In 1830, with James S. Brooks, he bought seven acres, which included the site where the Meriden House now stands, and these two gentlemen then engaged in business somewhere on this corner, and later, viz., in 1836, he was also in company with Randolph Linsley, but located on the East side of Colony street; he was in partnership with Henry C. Butler on the Meriden House corner in April, 1838, and the writer has discovered one bill from Cowles & Butler for coffee, chickens and goslings, that was receipted by Curtis L. North in the same year, showing that that arch hypocrite was already in town.

Major Cowles was a shrewd and successful merchant and was interested in several of the manufacturing ventures of his native town as well, and he and Judge James S. Brooks probably had more to do with having the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co. tracks laid through Meriden in the present course than any other men in Meriden; while the residents of the center were fighting tooth and nail to prevent the tracks being laid in that part of the town, for

fear of damage to their cattle and live stock, Major Cowles and Judge Brooks were quietly urging the present layout. The Major was one of the Board of Directors of the New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company from 1835 to 1840, and it must have been a proud moment for him when he saw the first train of cars come puffing into the station in Meriden, in November, 1838.[1] This was as far as the trains ran until Saturday, December 14, 1839, when the road was so far completed that a train was conducted from Belle Dock in New Haven to the Engine House in Hartford. Some idea of the small amount of business done by the railroad at first may be gained when it is stated that the gross income from passengers and freight for the first nine months was $24,000.

The first railroad station in Meriden stood on the east side of the track a little north of Main street, but it was evidently only a temporary affair, and Rockey's History of New Haven County says it was located in the Rogers block from 1840 to 1842. In the latter year it was changed to the rear part of what was afterwards called Conklin's Hotel, which fronted on Main street, just across the street from the Rogers building. On November 18, 1853, William Hale sold to the railroad a tract of land[2] which had been his garden plot and which we now know as Winthrop Square, and in the following year the railroad company erected the brick station on it which continued to stand there and be used for that purpose until the present one, on the other side of the track, was ready for occupancy, in September, 1882.



MAJOR ELISHA A. COWLES.

From an oil painting owned by his granddaughters, the Misses Churchill, of Berlin.

Major Cowles died in March, 1846, leaving a good estate for a country town in those days. Judge James S. Brooks, a much younger man, was a worthy coadjutor in Major Cowles' efforts, and was a director in the railroad from 1841 to 1863, and acted as president in 1856, and signed the annual report as president in 1859.

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1 Walter Stickney was a passenger on this train, which only came as far as Harbor Brook Crossing.

2 William Hale sold his garden plot to the railroad company for $3,000, and immediately placed the sum with Curtis L. North for investment. On the very next day North failed, and thus another man was added to the list of his victims.

Naturally, the location of the railroad track so far west of the center of the town, drew business to what was then known as West Meriden, and eventually the "Corner" became the real commercial center of Meriden, and the stage coach line was soon driven out of business by its steam competitor, and its shares, which had once been deemed a secure and profitable form of investment, soon became worthless.

Howell Merriman was another of the early Meriden merchants, and his dwelling and store stood where the building now occupied by W. W. Mosher is located, No. 13 Colony street: just to the left of his entrance may still be seen a stone bearing the inscription, "Howell Merriman, June 1, 1827." When he opened the store the writer has been unable to learn, but an examination of his account book, written in a neat, legible style, reveals his methodical habits and painstaking accuracy, and gives his inventory in 1831 and again in 1832, and shows that he carried a stock of dry goods, notions and jewelry: among the latter articles are mentioned three diamonds. He continued in business a number of years and finally entered a firm composed of Joel I. and Henry C. Butler, located in the Collins building, who conducted a sort of private bank, by discounting notes and arranging the placing of loans. Mr. Merriman[1] was also interested in several of the local manufacturing ventures: he died in 1858.

A picture of the business center, near the railroad station, in 1842, is shown in the accompanying reproduction of a poster distributed to the traveling public in that year by Nelson Merriam and Henry M. Foster. The observer is supposed to be standing just south of where the Morse & Cook building is now located, on the east side of the brook: on the extreme left is shown the building which Major Cowles and Dr. Hough erected, now known as the Rogers block, and for many years after the Major's death used by Hervey Rogers as a hotel. Opposite stands the hotel just opened (says the poster), and in front of it is waiting the stage coach to convey passengers to Middletown. This building was famous afterwards as Capt Conklin's hotel, and in the rear, just behind the engine tender, can be read the words, "Railroad Refectory;" and under this sign was also the entrance to the ticket office and passenger station: upstairs in this annex, which was afterwards enlarged, was the famous Conklin[2] Hall, where political caucuses and meetings were held. Here also the young people held their balls and assemblies, and here, too, the hardened criminal, or one who was blushing for his first offence, was brought, either defiant or humble, before the justice of the peace for trial.[3] Just to the right of this hall in the background, stands the dwelling house and store of

1 Father of Mrs. John L. Billard.
2 Known later as Burdick's Hall.
3 Up-town people at this time used the old Academy hall for an assembly room.



MERIDEN HOTEL,

MERIDEN, CONN.

The Subscribers respectfully announce to their friends and the public generally that this new and spacious esfablishment, eligibly located at the *Depot* of the *Hartford and New Haven Rail Road*, is now open for the reception of Company.

The House has been furnished throughout with New Furniture, and every arrangement has been made to promote the comfort and convenience of Guests.

Particular attention will be devoted to all *Parties of Pleasure.*

A REFECTORY is connected with the House, where a variety of Refreshments are prepared for the accommodation of PASSENGERS BY THE CARS.

A *Mail Stage* runs to and from this place and Middletown daily.

Good Conveyances are always in readiness to carry Passengers to any of the adjoining towns.

Every effort will be made to render the House worthy of a liberal support.

N. MERRIAM,
H. M. FOSTER.

P. S. Superior accommodations for *Stabling.* Travelers wishing to leave their Horses for a length of time, may rely on having them well provided for.

MERIDEN, *November*, 1842.

PRINT. KEIM'S PRESS, HARTFORD.

Howell Merriam, and on the extreme right of the picture is the freight station of those days. Capt. Conklin's hotel fronted on what we now know as Main street, but at that time called the Waterbury and Southington turnpike: the picture just misses showing the old wooden bridge which formerly spanned Harbor brook, a little to the right of the tree, and over which the stage coach will soon be rumbling and towards which the ducks in the brook are paddling.

Before Lewis & Holt's failure in 1834, the brick block at the southeast corner of East Main and Broad streets had been sold to a firm named Potter Shipman & Lewis, and these gentlemen were carrying on a general mercantile business in what was then the real center of Meriden; in 1836 the building was bought by Eli C. Birdsey,[1] as well as the Partrick Lewis residence, just south of it, and for several years he conducted a successful dry goods establishment in the front part of the brick block, while Alanson Birdsey carried on a grocery store in the basement in the rear, with an entrance on Main street. Eli C. died in 1843, and the business was then carried on by his son Linus and John Ives, under the firm name of Birdsey & Ives. Mr. Ives[2] afterwards went into business by himself, and erected the brick block, in 1854, which he now uses as a dwelling, No. 489 Broad street, and here conducted a dry goods establishment for many years; after the war he admitted Col. Chas. L. Upham and Philip C. Rand as partners, and later removed the business to the building now occupied by Howard Bros., and later to the Winthrop Hotel block.

Another prominent merchant at the same time was Harrison W. Curtis, who was also a tinware manufacturer and made his goods in shops back of his house on the south corner of Broad and Charles streets. He first started his hardware store in Franklin Hall, just after it was completed, in 1854,[3] but some time after moved one of his tin shops to the northeast corner of East Main and Center streets, and there installed his store and continued at that stand until his death in 1869. The business was then bought by Birdsey & Miles, and the present firm, Birdsey & Raven, is a lineal successor.

In Franklin Hall was also located for a while the firm of N. P. Ives & Co., which dealt in such a variety of merchandise that it included the finest kind of Boston tripe at one end of the list, and, at the other, an unexcelled line of the most improved farming utensils.

H. D. Basett built the brick block at the northeast corner of Broad and East Main streets, in 1857, and for many years he was there engaged in dispensing groceries.

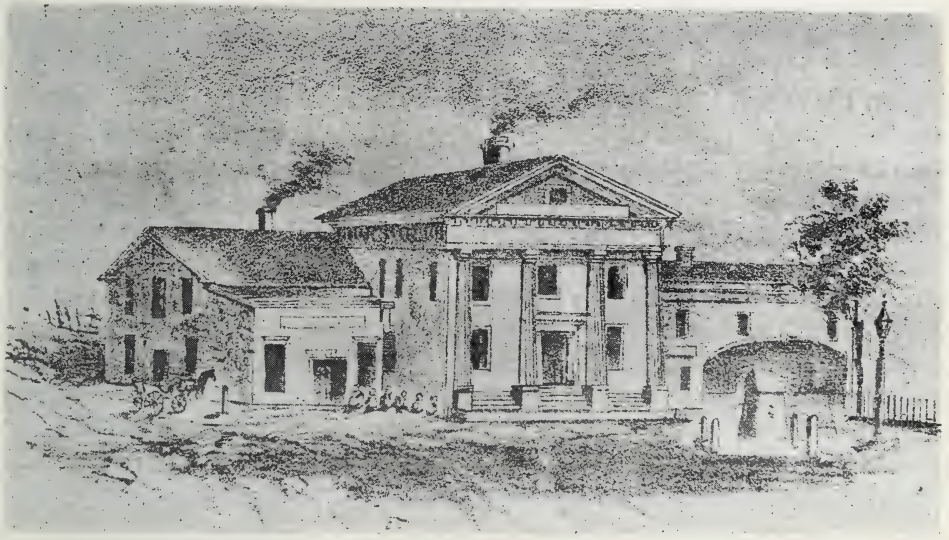
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1 The present Eli C. is his son.
2 Mr. Birdsey then took William J. Ives as partner.
3 Built by Russell Coe.



From map of Meriden, 1851.

The old Hough, or Central tavern, after the failure of Partrick Lewis, had a variety of ups and downs, passing through a succession of hands. In 1837, according to a town vote, it was known as Smith's Hotel, and, whether due to the quality of its liquor or to friction with the Church authorities, a special town meeting voted to adjourn to the tavern and there wind up the matter that had brought them together. After Mr. Smith had departed Evelyn Beckley was proprietor, and he was followed by a Mr. Douglass and Ira Twiss. In 1844 it was in the charge of a firm of partners named Andrews & Warren: but the glory of the place was departing, and it finally degenerated into a common drinking place. From the day the railroad was opened its doom



CURTIS L. NORTH'S STORE.

was sealed, and could good old Dr. Insign Hough have returned to his former haunts and beheld the low estate to which the tavern had descended, he would have been the first to exclaim, "Ichabod, thy glory hath departed!" To the great relief of all, it ceased to be a place of entertainment in 1873.

Mention has been made of the store on the Meriden House corner, conducted by Major Cowles and Henry C. Butler, and their clerk, Curtis L. North. A picture of the collection of buildings standing there in 1851 is shown in the annexed cuts. They are reproductions of illustrations that appeared in the map of Meriden of that date. Eventually North became the owner of the store: and as he was energetic, enterprising and shrewd, he

built up a large business and added to it an insurance agency and so-called private bank; he was forceful, and gained a wide constituency, and became the State agent for several large fire insurance companies, and his business extended all over this section.

R. B. Loomis, now living in Hartford, was then a young man and in the employ of Mr. North, and has told the writer many facts relating to the disaster which befell Meriden through the mad course of Mr. North. Had he possessed balance, and less recklessness, he would undoubtedly have had a great career in the business world; but he was unwise in his speculations, and at last became involved in a quarrel with the Meriden bank, and on account of some fancied slight, he made the attempt to break the bank by buying up all the notes of that institution that he could lay his hands on; but unfortunately his calculations were not carefully planned, and he succeeded only in wrecking himself and friends.

Mr. North had been, apparently, a very religious man; he was a prominent leader in prayer meetings, and his unctuous efforts in this direction so impressed his fellow church members that to this cause, perhaps, we can ascribe the fact that he drew into the maelstrom of his mad speculations and business ventures Homer Curtiss, Mrs. Elisha A. Cowles, Luther Webb and a host of others. Mr. Curtiss once said that "Mr. North's most successful ruse was to visit the home of some friend, and engage in an earnest religious conversation, which would be followed by an impressive prayer and supplication to the throne of grace." Before departing, and while the odor of sanctity was fairly oozing from his pores, he would ask for and usually obtain the endorsement on a note which had been the mainspring of all this religious fervor.

At last the crash came, and Meriden was astounded, and the state as well: the following is from a diary of the period:[1]

"Saturday, Nov. 26, 1853.

The past week has been a deeply painful and gloomy one for our community. It seems as if the foundations of the business world were breaking up. No less than seven failures have taken place within the past week, including our most enterprising business men and some substantial citizens who were considered rich, and were rich. And it is all occasioned by one man, Curtis L. North, who, after pursuing a reckless course of hazardous business, accompanied by great extravagance in living, has succeeded in drawing in the means of a large number of persons who usually had a reputation for sagacity and foresight: and so he has at length failed, and carried down with him a host of others. During this week there have been the following fail-

1 Kept by the late George R. Curtis.

ures: Curtis L. North, or the Meriden Agency Co.; P. J. Clark, Curtis, Morgan & Co., Walter Webb, Luther R. Webb, Mrs. Rosetta Cowles and others of less note; of course the whole community is in a state of great excitement, and time will alone tell the tale."

This of course was written immediately after the event was known, and things did not prove quite so black as then thought.

Mr. North erected the house now owned by Edmund A. Parker, corner of Washington and Colony streets, one of the best built dwellings in Meriden. His banking building had just been completed and the money was all subscribed to begin business at the time of the failure.[1] It stood on the site now occupied by the Home National Bank, but is not shown in the illustration, which was made in 1851. The picture shows, on the right, the insurance office, which occupied a site where Circle Hall now stands, but it finally wandered away to the north corner of Camp and Colony streets. On the corner south of the insurance office is seen the dwelling[2] occupied by Mr. North until he built his new house in 1853. This old dwelling, when the Meriden House was built, slunk away, abashed, to Veteran street, and the banking house, at a later date was moved to 38 West Main street, and is now used by John A. Thomas to cater to the wants of sportsmen. Back of the insurance office, on the hill, will be noticed the old Corner Schoolhouse, moved to King street about 1868. Southwest of the dwelling, and on the west side of a sort of half quadrangle stood Mr. North's store, which is seen in the second illustration, and it was here that he began business: at that time its front, dignified by four square columns, faced easterly, but when the Meriden House was built it was turned at right angles to face Main street, and it is now (lopped of its two wings), the store of F J. Wheeler who has occupied it since 1862.

Mr. North was never successful after his failure for any length of time, although his plausibility and versatility sometimes gave him a seeming temporary prosperity. He died a few years ago in abject poverty. The following appeared in the Republican under date of November 3, 1869.

"Curtis L. North, formerly of this city, and very well known among the old residents of this place (some of them in fact knowing him too well for their own happiness and pecuniary welfare, is now in Brooklyn, being settled down in the insurance business. His office is at the corner of Fulton and Broadway, New York. He is rapidly improving, and is superintendent of a

1 Extract from diary of Mrs. Benj. H. Catlin. This was known as Meriden Savings Bank and Building Association, and was continued after North's failure. It was an institution somewhat like our modern Building and Loan Associations.

2 This house was built about 1843 by Ezekiel A. Rice, who, for three or four years was the owner of one acre of ground at this corner, which contained the store. The latter was built by Major Elisha A. Cowles, some years earlier.

Sunday school and a leading member of the church. He recently put a $500 bill in a potato and presented it to his pastor.

We understand that he is making money at the rate of $50,000 a year. He informs his friends in Brooklyn that he has effected a satisfactory settlement with his creditors here.

What say the victims—is it so?"

In the Connecticut Whig, a weekly newspaper, then published in Meriden, by the late Senator O. H. Platt and R. W. Lewis, under date of January 1, 1853, appears the notice that the project of building a new hotel is being taken hold of with vigor, and the same paper tells us in September that the Meriden House has been started and that A. S. Lawrence is building it for a company of Meriden gentlemen. Funds were lacking, for a much better hotel was being constructed than had originally been planned, and it was not fully completed until 1855. It was opened on the evening of December 19, that year, with a banquet, at which most of the prominent gentlemen in town were present. J. S. Parmelee, who had been managing the McDonough House in Middletown, was the first proprietor, and William M. Bates[1] was the clerk.

It was deemed as good as any in the state, and the furnishings were considered very fine, and Meriden was justly proud of its new hotel. The first gas plant in town was connected with it, a manufacturing plant and storage tank eighteen feet in diameter having been built in the rear of the hotel for supplying the means of illumination, and naturally its installation produced a sensation in the community. But the hotel was really better than the demands of the times warranted, and Mr. Parmelee was compelled to close its doors in November, 1856. It was opened again January 31, 1857, by Fred W. Bartholomew, of Wallingford, Mr. Bates lending his assistance to see that it was started under favorable auspices. It ran afterwards, spasmodically, under a succession of proprietors, which included W. Lilley and Wm. H. Crossman, until Stephen J. Ives took the management, and then it started on a successful career for a number of years. In 1881 a fire damaged the top floor, and when the building was repaired it was leased for offices for two or three years. In 1885 it was bought by William B. Ives, who replaced the story that had been destroyed, and again rented it for an hotel, first to D. W. Crippen and then to Lohman & Sinclair. For the last twelve years E. M. Smith has been the tenant, and has conducted a successful and popular house of entertainment.

1 Mr. Bates, who has given the writer the above facts, went from here to the Scovill House in Waterbury, and from there to various prominent hotels in this country, at first as clerk, and later as manager or owner; they include St. Nicholas, New York; Ocean House, Newport; Congress Hall, Saratoga; Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York; New Southern, St. Louis, and for the past 12 years has been proprietor of Everett House, New York, and will have the Belmont when completed.

The year 1853 was a busy one in the building line in Meriden: during the decade from 1850 to 1860 the town more than doubled in population, rising from 3,559 to 7,426, and better and more numerous quarters were needed in every line of business. The Whig for April 14, 1853, in an article entitled "Building in Meriden" says, "the new building of the Messrs. Collins is nearly finished. It is three stories high, built of brick; the south half of the first story is occupied by the Messrs. Collins, and the store on the north end is occupied by Charles Blanchard as a clothing establishment: a small store near the center on the west side is being fitted up for a jeweler's shop to be occupied by Samuel Dunham." The Messrs. Collins were Aaron L. and Charles H., who carried on the grocery business here for a while, having at one time been located in the old Curtis L. North building: the firm was later known as Collins & Brooks. D. F. Southwick,[1] at a later date, was selling boots and shoes in this building. On the second floor were located the rooms of the Young Men's Institute, immediately after its organization, and they continued to be put to that use until the Town Hall was completed in 1855. Then, the Institute moving into quarters in that building provided for it, the Home Bank, just organized (Nov., 1855), moved into the vacated rooms in the Collins block. O. H. Platt's offices were also on the same floor for a while. At a later date the store on the south side, where the Messrs. Collins had been located, was for a time the home of the post office, with one entrance on Colony street and a second on the Main street side, by means of an iron stairway leading to a balcony. The building was popular as a stand because so central: it was destroyed by the great fire of March 9, 1864, and the Lewis & Hall block now occupies the same site, at the east corner of Colony and Main streets; but the Collins building extended considerably further north than its successor.

The newspaper article just quoted also states that "Curtis L. North's splendid house is now completed and he is engaged in beautifying his grounds." This was hardly more than six months before his failure.

Another popular building at this period was the brick block known as Andrews' Exchange, which stood where the G. A. R. hall is now located: it was perhaps erected in the year 1850, and in it the owner, Almon Andrews, had a hardware store; but, as in 1854 he had built a steam grist mill on Brooks street, at a spot now occupied by the north end of the Meriden Britannia Co. plant, he sold his hardware business to Newton F. Hart, who conducted quite an extensive store in the same line, and added to it a drug department, and

1 In 1858 C. H. Collins advertises that he has opened a boot and shoe store in the north store, where Chas. Blanchard had conducted the clothing establishment, and Mr. Southwick must have succeeded him some years later. In 1858 Samuel Dunham advertises that he has opened up a jewelry shop two doors west of High School avenue.

later took a partner, B. P. Foote, while in the south half of the building (where H. C. & J. I. Butler had carried on the grocery business, under the name of Butler & Butler) Henry Stedman was attempting to rival the Messrs. Collins in catering to those who needed provisions of all kinds. He was compelled to make an assignment in 1856, and the business was bought by Henry T. Wilcox. Mr. Hart believed in the efficacy of advertising, for the newspapers of the period contained in each issue a column setting forth the merits and variety of the merchandise he was offering to the "selection of a judicious and discriminating public," and he was evidently one of the most prominent of Meriden's merchants of that period. He is still living, and resides in Englewood, one of Chicago's suburbs. This building was also destroyed by the fire of 1864, and the present one was erected by H. T. Wilcox shortly after.

The building known as No. 2 West Main street, at present owned by the Wilcox Realty Co., and now occupied by Griswold, Richmond & Glock Co., was erected about the year 1851 by the late Horace C. Wilcox, who had not long before started in business with his brother, Dennis C., and had already begun to show that indomitable push and energy which was later to make him such a factor in the growth and enterprise of Meriden: in 1853 the east half of the first floor of this block was leased by him as an office to the Meriden Britannia Co., which had just been organized, while in 1854 the other side contained the jewelry store of F. A. Grover, but which had been replaced in 1857 by the tailor shop of J. H. Stevens, who had moved there from the west store in the Rogers block, across the street to the east: he had been in Meriden only a short time and was trying to impress on the Meriden public that Lewis S. Green was not the only tailor in the world. Mr. Stevens was of a jovial nature and popular, and became a well known character, and for many years continued to clothe the forms of those of the masculine gender, apparently to the satisfaction of his customers if not to that of his rivals. The earliest advertisement in a newspaper that the writer remembers to have noticed, probably on account of its constant repetition in invariably the same words and arrangement, was an announcement which continued to occupy a conspicuous place in the daily press for at least twenty years, and ran precisely as follows "Still they come, more new goods, cheap for cash, warranted to fit. J. H. Stevens." This continual refrain so impressed itself on the boyish imagination that the belief became fixed that Mr. Stevens would never be able to find a place large enough to store all these new goods, which fancy pictured as constantly being dumped into his place of business by an unending procession of expressmen.

Upstairs on the top floor in this Wilcox block, Chas. Page in 1855 had opened a studio for the production of daguerreotypes, or rather ambrotypes, as what was

considered to be an advance in the photographer's art was then called, and the second floor was supporting the printing press, and furnishing a place of seclusion for the editor of the "Meriden Observer," and William H. Green, a skilled draughtsman and engraver, (who had come to this country in company with Frank Leslie of illustrated newspaper fame) was furnishing in an adjoining room illustrations of their goods for various manufacturers of Meriden.

Just west of this block was a frame house painted white which had been the home of Major Cowles and which Mr. Wilcox was then using as his dwelling; a long stretch of lawn, ornamented with a rustic summer house and a flower garden separated this house from the home of Mrs. Rosetta Cowles, the widow of the Major, which she and her brother, Dr. Isaac I. Hough, had lately built; in it were also living at this time Henry C. Butler and his family, and his daughter, Miss Lucy T., had just been married to William L. Squire (June 18, 1856), and after a notice of the wedding ceremony the editor of the Meriden Transcript had inserted "The Printer tenders his thanks for being generously remembered in the distribution of cake."

This house, greatly altered, still stands in its original location, 20 West Main street, just west of the First National Bank building, and in one section of it Albert Babb now dispenses druggists' supplies.

A little west of this in a building which has given place to the brick block in which Louis H. Church and James F. Gill are serving the public in Nos. 30 and 32 West Main street, F. E. Hinman[1] was selling books and stationery and manipulating a hand power printing press in the rear, and just west of this stood another small building in which Joel H. Guy kept the West Meriden post office when the fortunes of the political world had not sent it across the street into the keeping of Noah A. Linsley as happened now and then. Mr. Guy's dwelling house stood immediately west of this building, and in it was the first home of the Meriden Savings Bank; it stayed there for a year or two and then moved uptown to Franklin Hall; the dwelling house now stands on Morgan street, the present large white house, 34 West Main street, having taken its place on the first site.

Across the street, on the west corner of High School avenue, was a store in which Ward Coe was trying to rival Aaron L. and C. H. Collins in the grocery line, and on the corner just east in the brick block now known as Lewis' but then owned by Levi Bradley, R. L. Webb was selling confectionery in the west store, later succeeded by William B. Smith in the same line, until he moved to Colony street, while in 1854 Stocking & Church were occupying the east side of this Bradley block with a selection of novelties and notions running from harmonicas to bird cages. Walter Hubbard (who was later to build up with N. L. Bradley the

1 When Mr. Hinman published Mr. Perkins' Historical Sketches of Meriden, 1849, he was located in the Rogers block, and a little later he was doing business in a little printing shop which stood about where Howard Brothers' store is situated, No. 7 Colony.

great manufacturing plant of Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co.), was also located in this store for a while with a line of dry goods.

East of this block at No. 21 where R. C. Morse's tailoring shop is now located and in the same building, Lewis S. Green was carrying on the same line of business, and as he was well liked and hospitable and fond of hearing the talk of the day, his tailor shop became the rendezvous of those who had a new story to tell, a little gossip to retail, a new scheme to unfold or desired to pass an idle hour free from the cares of business. This little building must have been well crowded with business for during several years Noah Linsley occupied the same store with Green in dispensing boots and shoes while down stairs in the basement in 1854 C. A. Hotchkiss was serving what he called the "Meriden Lunch," and in 1856 in the same place C. W. Bradley, with less patriotism in nomenclature, was running a plain "eating saloon," but which he flattered himself "could not be excelled in Meriden in the variety and excellence of its viands."

In the block now occupied by F. J. Wheeler, 17-19 West Main street, which has already been described as the Curtis L. North store, after the Meriden House had been built, and this building had been fronted on Main street, S. B. Parmelee in 1855 advertises that he has opened a grocery store; but he was soon succeeded by D. & N. G. Miller with a large stock of dry goods, and there they continued until 1862.

The Meriden House block was, of course, considered a fine stand for merchants, and in 1854, A. Birdsey & Co., who had been located in the east part of the Birdsey block, corner of East Main and Broad streets, and being impressed by the well-worn epigram of Bishop Berkeley that "westward the course of empire takes its way" had finally yielded to the inevitable and rented the north store in the new hotel block, on Colony street, where P. T. Ives now tempts the eye with a glittering array of gold and silver novelties. Mr. Birdsey opened with a stock of clothing and just north of him in the building where Adam Orr now sells meats and vegetables, William B. Smith was selling in 1856 ice cream and all sorts of delectable sweets.

In the Meriden House block just south of A. Birdsey & Co. in the corner store was located A. C. Wetmore shortly succeeded by Charles P. Colt with an attractive line of dry goods.

In the same block in the store now occupied by the Western Union Telegraph office, Edwin L. Yale was selling newspapers and periodicals of the day and soon succeeded by Julius Ives with a stock of merchandise which he was selling under the sign of Cash & Exchange Grocery store, and the west store was occupied by Morris Levy with a line of ready-made clothing, and when he got through, the room was used by the hotel as a billiard parlor.

The banking building which had been erected by Curtis L. North just previous to his failure, on Colony street next to Church street, stood there several years

previous to its removal to West Main street as has been described elsewhere, and when the Home Bank decided to climb down and out of the Collins block they moved into this ill-fated structure and stayed there until 1863 when they built the present banking house.

North of this was the First Congregational church, presenting its dignified front, graced by a pediment supported by six Corinthian columns and crowned by a spire of pleasing proportions, and on the lot north, where the Winthrop Hotel now stands, was the dwelling house of the widow Cordelia Couch who vied with Mrs. Merriam of Broad street in producing in her millinery parlors those fascinating creations so dear to the feminine heart and still more dear to the masculine pocketbook.

On the other side of the street where the Byxbee House block now stands was located the homestead of William Hale, which he bought in 1846 of Richard N. Dowd: the property included half an acre and we have already noted that he sold his garden plot to the railroad company in 1853. Mr. Hale began the manufacture of suspenders in the rear part of the house, and after a few years finding his business rapidly increasing, built a shop east of the house and fronting on the railroad track: having begun to make carpet bags also he took into partnership about 1852 Hezekiah H. Miller and Edwin H. Loomis. He sold the carpet bag business in 1855 to Jedediah Wilcox who had begun business in the same line some years previously in a shop which stood where the house of L. C. Brown is now located at No. 842 Broad street: from thence he had moved to a factory which he had erected in the triangle formed by the junction of Pratt and Camp streets, and afterwards building a shop where the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. plant is now located, in order to accommodate his new line of balmorals and hoop skirts. Mr. Miller went into company with Mr. Wilcox when he bought the carpet bag business, and Mr. Hale continued in his own shop, taking into partnership J. S. Norton, Sr., and making tape measures and also sewing-birds, once such an indispensable requisite to a woman's work table. Mr. Hale subsequently sold the plant and house to Mr. Norton and bought the Meriden House which he made his home until his death. Mr. Norton finally sold the shop and business to the Bradley & Hubbard Co. and both house and shop were destroyed by fire as described on a subsequent page.

It has already been mentioned that the Rogers block was erected by Major Cowles in 1840 and sold by Mrs. Cowles to Hervey Rogers in 1846. The latter subsequently enlarged the building and raised it, making the roof flat and there was complaint at the time that he had encroached on the highway. When George S. Jeffrey came to Meriden about 1851 he found the north front of the ground floor of this block occupied as a barber shop by Eldridge Jones. Jones[1] was the es-

1 On page 253 it is stated that the names of the two fugitive slaves, to whom Homer Curtiss gave shelter, were Eldridge and Jones. The person who gave the information was in error. "Lon" Jeffrey says one was named Eldridge Jones, the other Hinton Foster.

caped slave who had come to Meriden and received shelter from Homer Curtiss. Although the son of a colored woman his father was said to have been the brother of James K. Polk, president of the United States. Mr. Jeffrey stayed with Jones a few months as an employee and then left Meriden: returning in a year or so he found Jones had moved his shop to the Conklin hotel across the street in the rear part where we have noted the words "Railroad Refectory."

The hotel was at that time under the management of Peter Near and later his wife. Mr. Jeffrey worked for Jones two or three years and then bought him out (the latter moving to Springfield) and after a time Mr. Jeffrey moved his barber shop, first to where Adam Orr is now located on Colony street; then to Wilcox block, No. 2 West Main street, and later to the Rogers block on the second floor, and there continued a number of years and many will remember the large emblazoned poster which used to stare one in the face when reclining in one of the barber chairs: it read as follows: "It chills my blood to hear the great Supreme rudely appealed to on such trifling themes. Maintain your rank, profanity despise: to swear is neither brave, polite, nor wise."

This sign was placed there after a scene which occurred one day when the late Rev. Dr. Giles H. Deshon and Edwin E. Curtis were in the shop to have their unnecessary hirsute growth removed. A couple of young men or boys, happening to be there at the same time, were indulging in a most foolish and unreasonable display of profanity. The doctor could stand it for a short time only and turned and rebuked the young men; and then Mr. Jeffrey, impressed by the weight of the doctor's remarks, erected the sign.

To return to the Rogers block: in 1854 E. Levy was carrying on the clothing business in one of the stores and in the other J. R. Clark & Co. were selling hats and caps, and C. F. Atwood was using part of the room as a periodical and news stand and at one time Asahel Curtis, Jr., was there selling cigars and tobacco: as already noted J. H. Stevens was also for a short time selling his wonderful accumulation of "new goods" in this building.

In the Meriden Recorder for Sept. 10, 1870, we read that C. Rogers & Bros. (sons of Hervey Rogers) are about to retire from the hotel business and wish to dispose of the building and in the issue of September 26 following it is announced that the establishment is closed. On the 6th of the next month we read that "the Rogers Brothers have leased their hotel to the Smith Brothers for five years. The lessees will move their hair dressing establishment to the building and continue the hotel as heretofore."

Where Grant's tea store is located in Paddock's block on the corner of State and Main streets was a building[1] in which Merriam & Blakeslee manufactured and

1 Judging from a deed to the Hartford and New Haven Railroad in 1836, this same building or site was occupied at that time by a firm called Tibbals, Brooks & Co., manufacturers; composed of Elisha A. Cowles, Walter Booth, James S. Brooks and Isaac I. Tibbals.

sold tinware, and under it was a drug store and just a little further east was Willmot's "furniture emporium" while across the street in the block bounded by Perkins, Main and South Colony streets and the railroad track was the lumber yard of Lyman Clark, and south of it where Saleski's fruit store now stands was his steam sawmill.

During this growing and developing period there had been formed a partnership known as Lyon & Billard, composed of George W. Lyon and John D. Billard, who had started in business in 1847 on Butler street. They were burned out and at the time in question had settled down in the locality where the corporation known by that name still has its headquarters except that its growth has largely extended the original premises.

Many, in fact probably a majority of the buildings mentioned in this mid-century period, were erected by this enterprising firm.

Many will remember the old wooden bridge that once spanned Harbor brook at the Main street crossing: the brook must run under a part of Grant's tea store on the north side and directly beneath Maurice O'Brien's market on the south, but the stream is now so completely hidden by bridge and buildings that it is difficult to give exact locations. In the Recorder for May 20, 1864, we read "as will be seen by our report of the town meeting, it was voted last Saturday to have a substantial stone arched bridge across the Harbor Brook, on Main street. The new bridge is to be sixty-six feet wide or twenty-eight feet wider than the present bridge. It is to be completed during the coming summer and autumn and is to cost a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars."

Before leaving this description of the business center of the village of Meriden between the years 1850-1860, we must not forget one of the ineradicable features which remain in the minds of every one who has a recollection of those days.

In the junction of Main and Colony streets stood an elm tree, a sign post, a hay scales and a pump communicating with the well dug by John Merriam so long ago.

According to a letter which appeared in the Meriden Republican on September 5, 1868, from William J. Screen, this elm tree was planted by him in 1834 at the request of Dr. Isaac I. Hough. Mr. Screen found the elm in the woodland near Cat Hole pass and dug the hole for it in the junction of the two roads, while Dr. Hough trimmed the branches to the proper portions: and then it was planted while Dr. Hough stood by and directed the work and finally paid all bills. There the tree continued to grow and flourish until it was scorched and badly damaged by the great fire of March 9, 1864.

It was hoped that a few years would enable the tree to overcome the damage, but in 1868 it was determined to take it down and its valedictory appeared in the Republican as follows: "The tree was planted and grew as the city grew, and as the city throve and as manufactories arose, so did the elm spread forth its branches and increase in beauty and in strength. Under its ample shade stump speakers

have orated, lecturers have lectured, divines have held forth, and quacks have gulled the public and carried thousands of dollars from the town. When the peddlers of the future flock to the usual trysting place they will find it no more! their profit as well as its glory has departed." On Aug. 22, 1868, the same paper says that "stern necessity has compelled the removal of the old elm tree from the middle of our most crowded thoroughfare and in view of the immediate removal of the obnoxious old pump and sign post everybody is pleased with the change."

The temperance movement[1] which for some time had agitated the community finally crystallized into the establishment of what was called the Young Men's Institute. The first meeting was held Feb. 2, 1853, in the lecture room that stood in the rear of the First Congregational church. It at once became popular, for the membership embraced the most influential of the young men of Meriden and many of those of riper years: attractive rooms were fitted up in the Collins block and weekly meetings were held, at which debates took place and a series of lectures was given each year in the town hall or other convenient places. Many of the most prominent speakers of the country were among the lecturers and the institution became a great help, giving young men a chance to acquire knowledge and information who would otherwise have had perhaps no inclination or at least opportunity to come in contact with the best thought of the time. A library of several hundred volumes was contained in the rooms and the influence of the Institute was felt in many ways through the whole community. As already stated, the rooms were changed to the town hall in 1855 and it was maintained for perhaps a dozen or fifteen years, and when at last it ceased to exist the books were inherited by the Y. M. C. A.

Before 1849 Julius Andrews had opened a place of amusement and recreation known as Hemlock Grove, which speedily became very popular; indeed it is not so many years ago since the Grove was still a popular place of resort, where Sunday school picnics were held and various societies and organizations availed themselves of the attractions afforded by its grateful shade and novel entertainments.

1 To show to what extremes the temperance movement was once carried in this town, the following vote is quoted, passed at a town meeting held June 3, 1842:

"*Resolved*, That whereas the unlimited sale of Ardent spirits is, in our opinion, injurious to the purchaser, and the cause of a great proportion of our poor Taxes, and that the sale is, in our opinion, a source of considerable profit to the seller, we are therefore of opinion that all profit arising from the sale should go into the Town Treasury to help pay our poor rates: we, therefore, the Inhabitants of this Town would authorize the Civil authority and Selectmen to appoint some suitable person to be furnished by the said Selectmen with a good article of Spiritous Liquors and Wines to be sold on account of the town, and the profits arising from said sale shall be paid into the Treasury of the Town, and that the persons so authorized shall be required to keep a record of the quantity sold, the quantity purchased by each individual, with their names, and a true report made to the next annual meeting of this Town." Vote was adopted, ayes 85, nays 57.

Shortly afterwards the question again came up, because the previous act had not been properly enforced by the Selectmen, and, naturally, the pendulum swinging the other way, a vote was proposed which authorized any inhabitant to have liberty of using or vending spirituous liquors. The resolution stood, ayes 64 and nays 64. The moderator, Fenner Bush, then cast a negative vote and the resolution was defeated.

In the Connecticut Whig of October 20, 1852, appears the following advertisement:

"Bowling! Bowling!

The Lovers of this healthful and agreeable exercise are respectfully informed that the far-famed

Hemlock Grove Alleys!

are open to the public every day and evening in the year (Sundays excepted). The establishment is conducted on strictly temperance principles and nothing is neglected that will contribute to the comfort of those who may favor it with their calls."

On page 380 is a reduced facsimile of a poster issued in 1857 which, in glowing words, pictures the attractions of the place and gives an idea of how popular the resort had become.

Another place of resort was on West Peak where attractions had been placed that drew a multitude of nature's admirers.

In the Whig of February 19, 1853, we are told that

"Mr. W. J. Cadwell of Hanover, is, we understand, engaged in an enterprise which will make the 'Hanging Hills of Meriden,' and especially West Peak, as familiar as 'household words.' He is constructing a road from the Waterbury turnpike to the summit of the Peak, which will be of so easy a grade the ascent will scarcely be felt. A house is to be erected on the Peak, and a telescope of great power, which is now being manufactured in New York, at a cost of $800, will be mounted on a revolving pedestal, affording a view scarcely surpassed in extent, variety of scenery and beauty. With West Peak, Hemlock Grove and Cold Spring we shall have summer resorts superior to any inland town in New England."

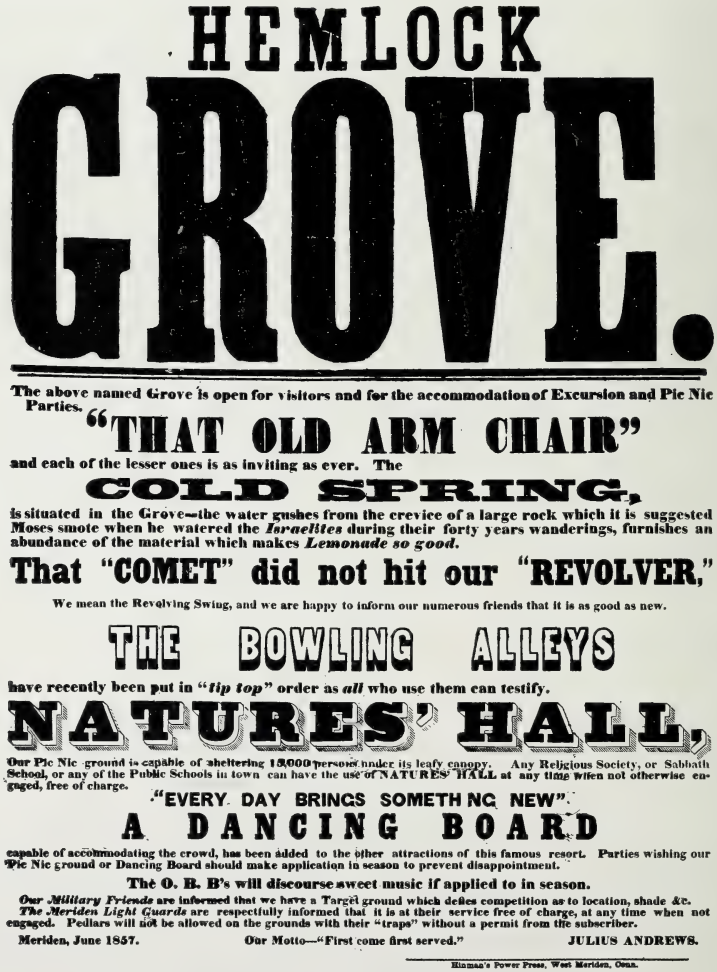
The house was duly completed and the telescope installed; but the next year it was being conducted by A. J. Hills and for several years it was one of the attractions of the town. It was destroyed by fire all of forty years ago.

Capt. Geo. B. Conklin, who for several years owned and managed the Meriden Hotel already described, afterwards disposed of it to Peter Near and his wife, who maintained it for a number of years. Captain Conklin, however, did not intend to give up the hotel business but had larger ambitions than could be satisfied by the hotel at the corner of Railroad avenue and Main street. In the Whig of July 7, 1853, appears the following under the column entitled Brevities and News Items.

"Cold Spring House

One of the finest retreats in the country is at Cold Spring. Capt. Conklin has just finished his fine House, on an eminence near the spring, commanding a fine

view of a large tract of country, and himself and lady are prepared to receive and entertain visitors. The ice left in the glens, the wild scenery, the beautiful drives in the neighborhood, combine to make it attractive to all. Call and see the captain at his home, and taste his bounty and humor."



HEMLOCK

GROVE.

The above named Grove is open for visitors and for the accommodation of Excursion and Pic Nic Parties.

"THAT OLD ARM CHAIR"

and each of the lesser ones is as inviting as ever. The

COLD SPRING,

is situated in the Grove—the water gushes from the crevice of a large rock which it is suggested Moses smote when he watered the *Israelites* during their forty years wanderings, furnishes an abundance of the material which makes *Lemonade so good.*

That "COMET" did not hit our "REVOLVER,"

We mean the Revolving Swing, and we are happy to inform our numerous friends that it is as good as new.

THE BOWLING ALLEYS

have recently been put in "*tip top*" order as *all* who use them can testify.

NATURES' HALL,

Our Pic Nic ground is capable of sheltering 15,000 persons under its leafy canopy. Any Religious Society, or Sabbath School, or any of the Public Schools in town can have the use of NATURES' HALL at any time when not otherwise engaged, free of charge.

"EVERY DAY BRINGS SOMETH NG NEW".

A DANCING BOARD

capable of accommodating the crowd, has been added to the other attractions of this famous resort. Parties wishing our Pic Nic ground or Dancing Board should make application in season to prevent disappointment.

The O. B. B's will discourse sweet music if applied to in season.

Our Military Friends are informed that we have a Target ground which defies competition as to location, shade &c.
The Meriden Light Guards are respectfully informed that it is at their service free of charge, at any time when not engaged. Pedlars will not be allowed on the grounds with their "traps" without a permit from the subscriber.

Meriden, June 1857. Our Motto—"First come first served." JULIUS ANDREWS.

Hinman's Power Press, West Meriden, Conn.

This building is now known as the old poor house, having been abandoned when the present "Cold Spring Home" was built a few years ago. It was Capt. Conklin's desire to make a resort that would be patronized by people of New York and other large places seeking a spot for rest and recreation, and indeed, in those

days it was a romantic and charming place; the Captain had built a rustic stone bowling alley and the spring at that time was celebrated on account of the great coldness of its waters; for a number of years it was a place of resort for Meriden people, and it also seems to have had a New York clientage.[1]

The property was acquired by the town about 1860. The writer is in possession of a diary of the period which gives accounts of excursions and picnics of the young people of that day and the names of Hemlock Grove, Conklin's Cold Spring House and Hill's West Peak House occur frequently in its pages.

It seems to have been in the period just mentioned that the attempt was begun to induce the public to buy building lots in that portion of Meriden known for many years as New City.

If there is crystallized truth in the aphorism of Montesquieu stating that "Happy the people whose annals are blank in history-books" then Meriden must have been a very happy place during these and succeeding years. The town was growing rapidly and the people were prosperous but its history has made little impression on the memory of those living.

The pages following are mostly gleaned from the diaries and newspapers of the period and while there is nothing startling to cull from the different sources, a fair idea of the events of succeeding years can be gained in this way.

In an issue of the Whig dated Sept. 15, 1853, attention is called to the rapidity of the work in constructing the State Reform School building; the location of the

1 The following, taken from the Weekly Recorder, June 22, 1864, gives an idea of the place before its glory had departed:

"Cold Spring, in the western part of the town, under the great mountain, has from time immemorial been a place of local resort, and has acquired some distinction abroad as a watering place. Some twelve years ago a large hotel was here built and, for two seasons, kept as the Cold Spring House. The number of boarders were comparatively few, mainly New York celebrities, who could here pass away a few weeks pleasantly, amused with the natural beauty and romance of the place— with a drive on the spacious race course— with rolling "nine-pins" in the "cobble-stone" bowling saloon, or drinking mint juleps and sherry cobblers concocted from the cool, sparkling water that poured forth from the iced spring beneath. But the Cold Spring House proved unprofitable as a hotel, and, after exchanging hands, proprietors, occupants and inmates, times numerous, finally, with its grounds, became the property of the town of Meriden, and here, for the three years preceding the first of January last, Mr. Nathan Fenn, a Connecticut Yankee, has cared for the poor of the town, and at the same time carried on a very extensive manufacture of brimstone matches, his shop being what was originally built for the bowling saloon of the Cold Spring House. Here he employs some fifteen men, boys and girls, and puts up about two thousand gross of matches per month. Cold Spring is only an outlet for the water which, during the summer, melts away from the large quantities of ice remaining under the huge boulders of the Hanging Hills, and finds its way, under the surface of the ground, to this place. Strange as it may read to those who have not ocular evidence of the fact, it is none the less true that ice may be found around and under rocks in the vicinity of the spring through the months of July and August! Although the crop of ice last winter was unusually small, yet Cold Spring had its due proportion; and a visit to its natural, out-door "ice-houses" on one of the warmest days of last week, revealed its plenteousness. The temperature of the various localities betrays almost instantly the whereabouts of the cooling luxury. Here the air about one will be as cool as that of an ice-house, while at a yard's distance the heated atmosphere of a summer's sun, in its sudden breath, is almost oppressive. Let those who are skeptical as to the existence of ice, in mid-summer, on a natural surface, and exposed to the action of the elements, visit Cold Spring and satisfy themselves of its reality."

institution in Meriden having shortly before been determined by the legislature; mention is made also of the new factory being erected for the Meriden Machine Company; it is now occupied by M. B. Schenck & Co.; the work on the new hotel now called the Meriden House is described; attention is called to the new brick store that John Ives is building on Broad street then called South Market street. And again the article speaks of the residence which is being constructed for Charles P. Colt on Colony street, which until a short time ago was the home of Major J. A.



OLD TOWN HALL.

Hurley: another dwelling, mentioned as partly built, is one that is to be the home of Hiram Butler, which is modeled on the style of a southern villa: it is to-day the homestead of Judge James P. Platt: and Franklin Hall, a brick block, until a few years ago standing immediately north of the Center Congregational church, was another building mentioned.

At a town meeting held April 29, 1844, the movement was started to build a town hall, but nothing tangible was done until 1853. The diary already quoted

says under date of February 18 that year, "this afternoon attended a town meeting held for the purpose of considering the expediency of building a town house: after an angry discussion a motion was made to adjourn which was finally carried after much excitement." Another meeting was held a week later and there was again a clash owing to a desire by uptown residents to have the new building in their section, and a like wish vigorously expressed by downtown interests. A compromise site, midway, was finally selected and the property of the widow of Roswell Cowles was bought and the building was begun shortly after a town meeting held Sept. 17, 1853. It was considered a very fine structure when finished and the cost is said to have been about $30,000. It was not completed for use until the latter part of 1855 and the following copy of a newspaper announcement tells the story of its first use by the public:

GRAND CONGRATULATORY FESTIVAL

The Citizens of Meriden and vicinity are invited to participate in a

SOCIAL FESTIVAL AND GRAND CELEBRATION

To be held at the

NEW TOWN HOUSE

on

WEDNESDAY EVE, DEC. 5TH, 1855

There to appropriately celebrate the completion of the above named splendid edifice and to formally Dedicate the

LARGEST PUBLIC HALL IN THE STATE

The occasion will be enlivened by appropriate speeches, music, etc. and by a

FREE COLLATION

The proceeds after paying Expenses will be given to the Meriden Young Men's Institute

Admission 25 cents; children Half Price

N. B. Should Wednesday evening be stormy, the Festival will be held on the first pleasant day hereafter.

Per order

JULIUS H. PRATT, Chairman of Town Committee.

The new town house was duly and properly opened on the date announced, viz. Dec. 5, 1855, and the first use it was put to after this "Grand Congratulatory Festival" was a lecture by Henry Ward Beecher on the evening of December 28th, under the auspices of the Young Men's Institute; the subject was "Patriotism," and the editor of the Weekly Transcript does not seem to have been greatly impressed by the famous man's efforts for he says under date of Jan. 3, 1856, "As a lecturer he is the most able, the most conceited, the most pathetic, the most silly, the most eloquent, and the most vulgar that we ever saw stand before a refined audience."

The first town meeting took place in the new building Mar. 31, 1856. Previously the basements of the Center Congregational and the Broad Street Baptist churches had been used, not only for town meetings but for elections as well.

As already announced, the rooms of the Young Men's Institute were moved to the town hall and thenceforth the various lectures arranged by this association were held in the hall and indeed all amusements that required a large auditorium were held there. In 1889 it was decided to enlarge and remodel the building and the work was finished in 1891. On the morning of February 14th, 1904, it was totally destroyed by fire. On Tuesday, Aug. 17, 1858, a very elaborate celebration of the completion of the laying of the Atlantic Cable or Ocean Telegraph, as it was called, was held in the town hall. At 9 o'clock a. m. the American and British flags were floated from the dome and a discharge of three signal guns notified the public that news had been received of an exchange of messages between the Queen of England and the President of the United States. Bells began to ring and a cannon in charge of the Light Guards belched forth its thunder in a national salute of thirty-two guns in the morning and twenty-one guns in the afternoon. In the evening a crowded meeting was held in the hall at which General Walter Booth presided and ringing speeches were made by Rev. Mr. Miller, Judge James S. Brooks, Dr. James Wylie, Dr. Hatch, Dexter R. Wright and others. A brass band was present, patriotic songs were sung, the hall was beautifully illuminated, and after the meeting a procession through the streets took place in which the Light Guards took part, accompanied by bands from Meriden and Wallingford: the streets were brilliantly lit by bonfires and an enormous one was made on West Peak. Altogether it was one of the most spectacular events that had ever taken place in Meriden.

The weekly press consisting of the Whig, the Transcript and the Chronicle, covering the period from about 1852 to 1859, contains little of local news but much information was printed in the advertisements which have been freely consulted in the foregoing pages. But with the establishment of Riggs' Literary Recorder in 1863 considerable of local interest was printed and one of the first articles of this nature which seems to the writer to contain matter worth inserting in these pages in an abridged form is the following from the issue of Sept. 26, 1863:



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MERIDEN ABOUT 1855, FROM WHAT IS NOW PROSPECT STREET.



VIEW OF WEST MERIDEN, TAKEN FROM THE DOME OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, IN 1865.

"PARKERS SNOW & CO.[1]

We have during the past week visited the extensive manufacturing establishment of Parkers Snow & Co. of this town—a firm which enjoys a large amount of capital and employs more workmen than any two manufacturing establishments in the state.[2] Parkers Snow & Co. employ upwards of four hundred and fifty men, and their monthly pay roll foots up more than eighteen thousand dollars. This princely company manufacture machine work of all descriptions, including Campbell's Country Printing Press, Coining Presses, Steam Engines, boilers and apparatus for heating dwellings and public buildings. In the gun works, about three hundred men are employed who turn out from eighty to one hundred Springfield Rifled Muskets per day," etc., etc.

On Friday, March 11, 1864, the Recorder printed the following:

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

$72,000 WORTH OF PROPERTY DESTROYED

ONE MAN KILLED: TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED.

The most destructive fire our town ever witnessed occurred Wednesday morning [March 9], consuming five buildings, seventy-two thousand dollars' worth of property and burning seventeen different firms and families out of doors. The fire originated in Andrews Exchange Building and was first discovered by George A. Fay shortly after two o'clock (midnight) when he saw the reflection of the fire upon his walls.[3] He immediately arose and before he had succeeded in getting dressed the light disappeared. He watched some five minutes to see if anything more could be discovered; but seeing nothing he again retired. It did not at that time occur to him that it might be a fire and he took no notice of the matter till some twenty minutes afterwards when the fire was again reflected with considerable brilliancy. Upon going to the window, he could plainly see sparks and brands of fire dropping through the second floor into H. T. Wilcox & Co.'s grocery store directly beneath. He immediately dressed, gave the alarm and rushed down to Lyman Clark's[4] and caused the steam whistle to be sounded. At this time and for half an hour afterwards, an ordinary fire engine would have saved the adjoining buildings on either side. Mr. Fay now set himself about getting out the safe and stock of Mr. D. F. Southwick[5] who was absent in New York and also made an effort to secure the valuable library of Hon. O. H. Platt whose of-

1 Successors of Snow, Brooks & Co., a firm composed of Oliver Snow and James S. Brooks. Parker Brothers' Gun factory is the direct successor of Parkers, Snow & Co.

2 Certainly an exaggerated statement.

3 He was then rooming in what we now call the Circle Hall Building.

4 Where Saleski's building is now situated, 37 S. Colony street.

5 Boot and shoe dealer.

fice he reached by ascending the water conducting pipes. But the intensity of the atmosphere rendered it impossible for him to penetrate the room and he was obliged to give over the undertaking. The flames soon generated a gas among the chemicals, and when the walls of the buildings became sufficiently weakened, they were suddenly thrown outward. Some twenty persons were standing in front of the building, on or near the walk, where the walls fell over, when they all rushed back, receiving trifling injuries, but three men were seriously injured. Mr. Porter Edgerton, engraver, was struck on the head by the falling walls and rendered senseless. He was dragged from the ruins and carried to the depot and expired in half an hour." The buildings destroyed by this fire were Conklin's, or Near's hotel, the Collins block, Andrews' Exchange, and the building standing where Mosher's Drug store is located, at that time occupied by W. A. Butler.

From the diary of George A. Fay the writer has learned of another fire which broke out at 3 a. m. on Sept. 5, 1862, in the machine shop just south of the railroad station when it was located on Winthrop Square. The shop was destroyed, the house of J. S. Norton, Sr., just west of it, was also burned to the ground and the passenger station badly damaged. The shop at that time was occupied by some one making sewing birds for Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co.

On July 16, 1870, occurred the great fire which completely destroyed the two top floors of the main building of the Meriden Britannia Co. The Republican of that date has this to say:

"The most terrible fire which has ever afflicted this city broke out this morning in the Meriden Britannia Company's works." "The fire originated in the topmost story at the north part of the brick building. At about two o'clock [a. m.] a disagreeable smoke was smelt in the composing room of the Republican office * * * * In ten minutes afterwards the Britannia shop gong blew out its stern summons. The 2 a. m. down train at this moment came along and added its warning voice, and the alarm becoming general the city fire department were soon on the spot. * * * The flames spread rapidly and the firemen were unable to stay its slow but sure onward progress. * * * In twenty minutes after the fire was first discovered the flames burst through the roof. At 3 a. m. the roof fell in with a tremendous crash and the flames increased in their intensity." Active work saved the two lower floors from destruction, but the loss was great and for several months the large force employed by the company was thrown out of work, and the damage not only to the company but to the community at large, was very great.

On March 1, 1863, the Messrs. Byxbee Bros. (John C. and Major Theodore) began the erection of a wooden hotel building just south of Winthrop Square (or the passenger station of the N. Y. & N. H. R. R. as it was then) and for several years conducted a well appointed hostelry: on Mar. 21, 1868, the building was de-

stroyed by fire and for a time it was feared that the entire block of buildings south to Main street would follow in its wake; but diligent effort by the firemen confined the conflagration to the hotel. The embers had hardly begun to cool before the Byxbee Brothers had started to clear away the debris and soon the walls of the present brick block were in process of construction.

The factory of the Meriden Woolen Co. was built by the firm of J. Wilcox & Co. in 1865. Their factory had been previously located where the present plant of the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. branch of the International Co. is situated, on the south side of Pratt street. On May 3, 1865, fire completely destroyed the old shop, throwing the workmen out of employment and stopping for a while the large production of goods which had been placed on the market in increasing quantities by this enterprising firm. It was considered at the time as the most disastrous fire that had ever visited Meriden.

In the year 1869 there was standing between the block now occupied by Griswold, Richmond & Glock and the First National Bank, the old Elisha A. Cowles residence, used at the time by Mrs. Moses Wright as a boarding house; west of that a structure once the home of the post office and immediately west of that, the dry goods store conducted by the firm of Williams & Smith. On the morning of Dec. 3, 1869, at 2 a. m., a fire was discovered in the old post office building and in spite of all efforts that structure, Mrs. Wright's boarding house and the dry goods store were completely destroyed by the conflagration.

In 1870 H. C. Wilcox began the erection of the block which now occupies the site of these burned structures, ground being broken Feb. 15. It was so much in advance of any building previously erected in Meriden that it was called Palace Block, a name which it retains to this day.

In the month of March, 1860, occurred a very destructive fire which destroyed the block of buildings on the north side of East Main street from State to Pratt streets. It began in the "furniture emporium" belonging to George R. Willmot and on account of the limited apparatus for fighting fire in those days the district was swept clean.[1]

In giving a list of places of amusement in Meriden during this period one has been omitted that was so bizarre, quaint and unique that a place in the list is certainly deserved. Reference is had to what was known as Eagle Cottage on South Colony street on ground now occupied by the Meriden Brewing Company. The earliest reference to it that the writer can find is contained in the issue of the Recorder under date November 13, 1863, and then evidently on account of one of the eccentricities of architecture or ornamentation developed by that singular man, Norman Allen, the owner of the place. All sorts of odd attractions were added as the years went by, mainly mechanical contrivances designed to be excited by a breath of wind to some surprising performance. On top of the house was perched

1 Diary of Mrs. Benj. H. Catlin.

a counterfeit presentment of a man and a lion and when the wind blew the man was convulsed into various contortions in his efforts to get the mastery of the beast of prey. Like arrangements were scattered about the grounds; the house was painted in a most surprising combination of black and white, as if it had been raining paint on South Colony street, and in an apple tree was built a pavilion where ice cream and lemonade were served. As the years went by the place attracted so much attention that Mr. Allen determined to make of it a place of amusement. According to the Republican of April 12, 1870, Mr. Allen was given permission that week to build a wooden house on his premises for the purpose of making a music room, menagerie and "happy family," and on June 15, 1870, according to the same paper "Norman Allen's picturesque residence, with its beautiful grounds will be opened to the public this evening. Should the weather be favorable a grand display of fireworks will take place. The balloon parlor will be lighted with gas, the English lion ignominiously suspended in chains to the neck of a very big spread eagle, the emblem of this glorious country, will roar gratis, the eagle will favor the public with its best screech, Norman Allen will deliver an inaugural address, the band will play and so will the fountains," etc.

In the Recorder of June 5, 1871, we read:

"The most noticeable feature of South Colony street is Mr. Norman Allen's Eagle Cottage and ice cream. We visited Mr. Allen's place on Saturday evening and were more than satisfied with what we saw and heard. The Rocky Mountain scene interested us more than anything else. Here a train of cars, loaded with passengers, has just emerged from the tunnel and is proceeding on its way. On the side of the mountain, a little higher than the track, a saw mill with an appropriate sign over its entrance is seen in operation," etc. "In the museum are a large number of stereoscopic views * * outside there is every convenience for those who wish to test Mr. Allen's ice cream." A really surprising amount of mechanical ingenuity was shown by Mr. Allen in producing his different attractions. For several years the place ministered to the amusement of the people and then like the Arab he folded his tent and stole away to places where the shekels were more plentiful and the crowd of pleasure seekers more numerous. When one passes the place and sees the complete metamorphosis, one realizes how true is the saying that "the place that has known him shall know him no more." But who that ever visited the museum will forget its strange attractions, or the son of the proprietor who used to parade the streets, bell in hand, announcing in a loud voice the programme for the coming evening.

An attempt has been made to picture Meriden as a village and again as a growing town that was beginning to feel that its increase in numbers had been sufficient to warrant the adoption of whatever dignity, position and influence would be gained by the incorporation of its central and more densely populated part into

a city. Its rapid growth had spread abroad the feeling that Meriden was bound to become a large community and now and then estimates of future growth had been made, based on the rapid increase in importance of some of the manufacturing industries and the location and formation of new plants. As already stated, the census of 1860 showed 7,426 souls, or an increase of over 100 per cent. in ten years. As a matter of fact, the showing in 1870 was only 10,495, so that it was apparent that some of the estimates had been over sanguine.

MERIDEN A CITY.

The city of Meriden was incorporated by act of the General Assembly July 11, 1867, and on July 24, 1868, an amendment to the charter was passed in order to permit the construction of a water supply or city reservoir.

The first election resulted in the choice of the following officers: Mayor, Charles Parker; clerk, John H. Bario; aldermen, William J. Ives, Hiram Butler, George W. Lyon, Jedediah Wilcox; councilmen, Lemuel J. Curtis, Owen B. Arnold, Charles L. Upham, Charles A. Roberts, Hezekiah H. Miller, Eli Ives, Augustus C. Markham, Eli C. Butler, Aaron L. Collins, Isaac C. Lewis, Jared R. Cook, Jared Lewis, Horace C. Wilcox, Dennis C. Wilcox, John C. Byxbee, Walter Hubbard; treasurer, Asahel H. Curtis; collector, Samuel O. Church; auditor, Joel H. Guy.

This was certainly a selection of a very high order; they were all men of ability and although enterprising, they also possessed a great fund of business sense and sagacity that started the city under the best possible auspices.

The change seemed to inspire the community with a desire to take every measure or step that could add to the genuine improvement and appearance of the city. Within a year or two the following dwellings were erected—all creditable to the city: George A. Fay,[1] 1868; Lemuel J. Curtis,[2] 1868; Julius Pratt,[3] 1868; Edward Miller,[4] 1868; Henry T. Wilcox,[5] 1868; Jedediah Wilcox,[6] 1870, considered at the time one of the finest residences in Connecticut, and now the home of Dexter W. Parker. The Corner district schoolhouse was completed and dedicated Sept. 4, 1868. St. Andrew's Episcopal church was completed in 1867, and the Methodist church was dedicated June 26, 1868, and the Main Street Baptist church was dedicated July, 1868, and in the same year the Center district schoolhouse was built, and also the engine house and police station on Pratt street, now the property of the Turner society, and the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co. began the erection in the same year of the present freight station north of Camp street, and in the following

1 144 Curtis street.
2 128 Curtis street.
3 118 Colony street, now home of Floyd Curtis.
4 360 Broad street.
5 400 Colony street.
6 816 Broad street.

year after great debate and much hot discussion the city began the building of its first reservoir now known as Merimere.

In 1868, after much complaint of the lack of adequate police protection, the city decided to create a force which would at least be the nucleus of a future and larger body of blue coated men, so on Monday evening, September 14th, the common council elected Jared P. Parker, chief of police, and on November 17, 1868, the following men were added to the force: S. S. Wilcox, A. H. M. Pratt and George Van Nostrand. On Monday evening, December 5, Mr. Pratt having declined to serve, Capt. Roger M. Ford was elected to fill the vacancy.

Some of the arguments used in opposing the appointment of a police force are rather amusing. One alderman said Middletown had given up their police force because they found they bred riots; another said he didn't believe we needed a police force, for Waterbury had only one man and he had nothing to do: another who was opposed to paying a fair rate of pay, said it was a lazy sort of life anyway and he would be glad to take such a position at $2 per day.

During the year 1869 the grading and widening of the following streets was begun: Broad, Pratt, Colony, Main, Liberty, and Curtis. The great changes in the profiles and widths produced many lawsuits but they were finally adjusted by compromise or the decisions of the courts, and Meriden began gradually with her changed streets bordered by flag sidewalks, to take the appearance of the modern city.

On May 9, 1870, the common council passed a by-law relating to the numbering of houses and lots and on May 23 the same year the council adopted the names of streets that are still retained by those thoroughfares then in existence.

The really final event to convince Meriden that it was at last a city was the announcement in the Republican under date of Sept. 7, 1869 that "canvassers are now collecting the names of our citizens with a view of publishing a directory."

NEWSPAPERS OF MERIDEN.

The newspapers of the period have been frequently mentioned in the foregoing pages and they evidently played an important part in the daily life of the people.

The first newspaper printed in Meriden was called "Northern Literary Messenger" and published by O. G. Wilson. A copy in the writer's possession dated Feb. 3, 1849, says it is "edited by an Association of Gentlemen" and "Devoted to Literature and the Arts." This copy is No. 5 of Vol. IV., which would seem to bear out the statement in an article of The Meriden Press-Recorder under date March 28, 1883, that the first number of the Messenger appeared in September, 1844. The local news, as usual in that period, amounted to nothing but the advertisements gave us a little information. The paper was printed in a building that stood just west of the Center Congregational church where the Central Hotel

is situated, No. 297 East Main street, but the number above referred to had hardly made its appearance before its publication was suspended and on March 24, 1849, the "Meriden Weekly Mercury" made its bow to the public under the management of O. G. Wilson and Geo. W. Weeks, as successor to the Messenger and in an editorial the announcement is made that "The Messenger" "is dead! Stark dead! It died a natural death on the 3rd of February last, purely for want of breath (i. e. California gold) which caused its locomotion to stop." The Press-Recorder above quoted says that the paper had been run under its new name only six weeks when the building was destroyed by fire. It was then printed in the old Academy building. How long it continued no one seems to know.

The same authority says "The Connecticut Organ" was started in 1851 by Franklin E. Hinman as printer with O. H. Platt as editor, but that Mr. Hinman sold out the paper early in 1852 to James N. Phelps & Co. and this statement seems corroborated by a copy, before the writer as he pens these lines, dated May 1, 1852: the name of New Britain Journal had been added to the title: how long it continued to be published is uncertain; perhaps the Connecticut Whig was successor to it for a copy dated Mar. 30, 1854, says "New Series, Vol. 3, No. 36."

R. W. Lewis and O. H. Platt were the publishers of the Whig and Mr. Platt was also its editor. Geo. W. Rogers was afterwards associated with Mr. Platt. The paper was discontinued about 1854.

Contemporary with this publication was a journal called "Meriden Transcript," published by Lysander R. Webb & Co., begun in 1850, and after the Whig had suspended Mr. Platt became editor also of the Transcript. This paper continued to exist until August, 1856, when Mr. Platt's increasing law business compelled him to cease all connection with newspaper work.

In the early part of the same year Robert Winton, a Canadian who had been connected with newspaper work in North Adams, Mass., came to Meriden, and being encouraged and aided by the leading manufacturers and merchants, established a newspaper called the Meriden Chronicle, which was printed in Wilcox block where Griswold, Richmond & Glock are now located, although on an upper floor. This publication continued three years, and was then bought by a Mr. Stillman who established a paper called The Banner. It was Democratic in politics and lasted only four weeks.

On Aug. 29, 1863, Luther G. Riggs started the Meriden Literary Recorder, the printing house being located in what is now known as Circle Hall building on Colony street. His associate was a Mr. Dorman.

Mr. Riggs had talent and ability but lacked balance and his course here was a stormy one, and the controversies he engaged in brought him only great adversity and more than one personal chastisement.

All these various publications so far described were weekly sheets and there was no daily newspaper until the Weekly Visitor begun on March 21, 1867, by

Monroe Eaton commenced a daily issue on Jan. 1, 1868, On March 16 it was merged into the Weekly and Daily Republican which was at first under the editorial control of Marcus L. Delevan and George Gibbons and later of William F. Graham. The publication was continuous until March 1, 1899, when it was consolidated with the Morning Record, a newspaper established on Oct. 8, 1892, by the same publishing house, so that since March 16, 1868, it may be said that this same newspaper has been printed by this establishment. The editor at present is Thomas H. Warnock.

There were various other short lived newspapers which may be briefly named, viz: "Daily News," "Evening Recorder" and "Morning Call," under the leadership of Luther G. Riggs. "The Penny Press," established by J. H. Mabbett in December, 1881, soon changed to the Evening Press and on Oct. 16, 1882, consolidated with Riggs' Daily and Weekly Recorder, and was called the Meriden Press-Recorder and continued until 1884. For a brief period in 1872 William F. Graham published a newspaper called the evening Monitor which was soon merged with the Republican.

On March 4, 1886, The Journal Publishing Company was incorporated with Francis Atwater, president; T. L. Reilly, secretary; F. E. Sands, treasurer, and Lewis Allen, editor. They immediately began the publication of The Meriden Journal, a newspaper which has a wide circulation and which has steadily grown in influence as the years have rolled by.

The publication of The Evening Times began May 22, 1905. The moving spirit of the enterprise was Henry C. L. Otto, whose untimely death on November 7, 1905, took away the mainspring of the organization, and the paper was discontinued on March 2, 1906.

EARLY LAWYERS OF MERIDEN.

The first full fledged lawyer resident in Meriden seems to have becn Benajah Andrews whose homestead stood where the present residence of Mrs. T. F. Breese is located, 501 East Main street. For several years he was judge of probate in this district and his name appears many times on legal documents drawn up during the first half of the nineteenth century, but the writer has been unable to learn many facts relative to his life.

Dexter R. Wright came to Meriden immediately after graduating from Wesleyan College in 1845 and took the position of principal of the Meriden Academy. In 1848 he graduated from Yale Law School and began the practice of his profession in this town the same year.

After Franklin Hall was built his office was in that block. His influence was felt in many directions for he was a man of energy and resource. He attained political honors while living here. In 1862 he enlisted in the 15th regiment and

was made colonel but ill health compelled him to retire in 1863. He returned to Meriden and sold out his business here and removed to New Haven where he had an active practice.

Tilton E. Doolittle was located in Meriden several years after graduating from Yale Law school in 1846. The map of Meriden made in 1851 shows that his office was located on West Main street just west of the Guy residence.

Hon. Orville H. Platt, senior U. S. senator from Connecticut, came to Meriden a young man in 1851: he had studied law in the office of Judge Hollister of Litchfield and was admitted to the bar in 1849. His many activities and resources were constantly in evidence during the early years of his residence in this town, outside of his profession as a lawyer, and those who were best acquainted with him knew how great his abilities were and it is safe to say that none of them was surprised by the eminence he attained in the service of the government as senator during his career of twenty-six years in that distinguished body. It is not the purpose to give his biography here as it has been printed in another part of this book.

IN CONCLUSION.

There comes a year in the cycle of time embraced in an historical narrative sketching the growth of a present day community, even though the story be of so unpretentious a nature as the chronicles of a town like Meriden, when the rapid accummulation of facts and multiplicity of details, render perspective distorted, and prepare one to recognize the homely truth contained in the remark, that one "couldn't see the woods for the trees that were in it."

We have followed the story of the development of Meriden until we have seen the struggles of the early pioneers succeeded by a dawning of the consciousness that there was a future full of hope and promise for all who would energetically continue the labors of those gone before. The town of 1806 has been succeeded by the city of 1867, the spirit of enterprise is everywhere, factories are growing and new ones springing up, and the year 1870 seems a fitting period in which to write the word FINIS to this part of the "Centennial Book."

And so at last, notwithstanding all that has been left untold, the end of these annals is here, and at a very much later date than was anticipated when the work was undertaken some ten months ago. Begun with the idea of writing a sketch of some thirty or forty pages this story has grown in a most surprising manner until with dismay page 300 has been seen and passed and courage is lacking to set a limit to that one on which these final words will appear.

The writer, as much as any one who may chance to read these annals, is impressed by the sins of omission and commission that are to be found both in style and construction. He can only plead in apology that the material has had to be collected in great haste, and then digested with such a rush as to produce the nu-

merous examples of literary dyspepsia that the printed pages render only too frequently apparent.

The great storehouses of information on which the writer has constantly relied are contained in the land records of Meriden and Wallingford and the probate records of these two towns reinforced by the earlier ones of New Haven. The wealth of facts there found, has been largely supplemented by the memories of those whose age enables them to give reminiscences that would otherwise be utterly lost, or whose associations in the various localities have caused them to treasure up the traditions and stories of the past that are handed down from generation to generation.

To give a list of the names of those who have patiently submitted to question after question and who have voluntarily given information not sought for because the writer had no clue to such sources, or who have assisted in ways too numerous to mention would require almost another chapter. But although these names are omitted the writer's gratitude is no less profound.

APPENDIX

Representatives in the General Assembly from Meriden.

COMPILED BY HERMAN HESS.

1806 Oct. session, Brenton Hall.
1807 May session, Amasa Curtiss.
1807 Oct. session, Theophilus Hall.
1808 May session, Amos White.
1808 Oct. session, Nathaniel Yale.
1809 May session, Nathan Yale.
1809 Oct. session, Solomon R. Hall.
1810 May session, Jared Benham.
1810 Oct. session, Solomon R. Hall.
1811 May session, Partrick Clark.
1811 Oct. session, Partrick Clark.
1812 May session, Samuel Paddock.
1812 Oct. session, Samuel Paddock.
1813 May session, Theophilus Hall.
1813 Oct. session, John Hall.
1814 May session, John Hall.
1814 Oct. session, William Yale.
1815 May session, William Yale.
1815 Oct. session, James Baldwin.
1816 May session, James Baldwin.
1816 Oct. session, Stephen Bailey.
1817 May session, Stephen Bailey.
1817 Oct. session, Othniel Ives.
1818 May session, Othniel Ives.
1818 Oct. session, Elisha Curtis.
1819 William Yale.[1]
1820 Ashbel Griswold.
1821 Levi Yale.
1822 Partrick Clark.
1823 Samuel Paddock, Jr.
1824 Amos Curtis.
1825 William Yale.
1826 Ashbel Griswold.
1827 Gershom Birdsey.
1828 Ashbel Griswold.
1829 Walter Booth.
1830 Titus Ives.
1831 Ashbel Griswold.
1832 Noah Pomeroy.
1833 Enos H. Curtis.
1834 Eli C. Birdsey.
1835 Hezekiah Rice.
1836 Asahel Curtis.
1837 Horace R. Redfield.
1838 Walter Booth.[2]
1839 James S. Brooks.
1840. Eli C. Birdsey.
1841. Tie vote—no election.
1842 Ira Couch.
1843 Henry Stedman.
1844 James S. Brooks.
1845 Tie vote—no election.
1846 Elias Howell.
1847 Ashbel Griswold.
1848 Isaac C. Lewis.
1849 James A. Frary.
1850 William J. Ives.
1851 Hiram A. Yale.
1852 Julius Pratt.
1853 Isaac C. Lewis.
1854 Albert Foster.
1855 James S. Brooks.
1856 Levi Yale.
1857 James S. Brooks.
1858 Asahel Curtis.
1859 William W. Lyman.
1860 Andrew J. Coe.
1861 Owen B. Arnold.
1862 Isaac C. Lewis.
1863 Dexter R. Wright.

1 Until 1819 there were two elections annually.
2 Three elections; first two resulted in tie.

1864 Orville H. Platt.
1865 Oliver S. Williams.
1866 Isaac C. Lewis.
1867 Andrew J. Coe.
1868 William A. Hall.
1869 Orville H. Platt.
1870 John Parker.
1871 Joseph J. Woolley.
1872 H. Wales Lines.
1873 Chas. H. S. Davis.
1874 Owen B. Arnold.
1875 Wallace A. Miles, Asahel H. Curtis.[1]
April 1876 Wallace A. Miles, Asahel H. Curtis.
Nov. 1876 Wallace A. Miles, A. Chamberlain, Jr.
1877 James P. Platt, George R. Willmot.
1878 James P. Platt, Samuel Dodd.
1879 Emerson A. Merriman, G. H. Wilson.
1880 E. A. Merriman, W. W. Lyman.
1881 William W. Lyman, G. H. Wilson.
1882 John Morse, Reuben T. Cook.
1883 George O. Higby, William H. Golden.
1884 Chas. H. S. Davis, William Wallace Lee.
1885 William Wallace Lee, Chas. H. S. Davis.
1886 William H. Barbour, Louis H. Hart.
1888 James H. Chapin, E. D. Castelow.
1890 E. D. Castelow, Joseph H. Potts.
1892 Oscar L. Bradley, Timothy M. Crowley.
1894 Benjamin Page, Jacob S. Morrill.
1896 William G. Gallager, Geo. W. Couch.
1898 Geo. W. Couch, Geo. L. Ellsbree.
1900 August Maschmeyer, George E. Bicknell.
1902 George E. Bicknell, Willis I. Fenn.
1904 Willis I. Fenn, Fred'k L. Huntington.

List of State Senators from Meriden.

COMPILED BY W. D. W. PARKER.

From 1806 to 1818 we lived under the original King Charles Charter of 1662. During the period mentioned there was no office of state senator, those occupying that relative position being called "assistants." No authentic information indicates that any of the "assistants" were residents of Meriden, they being taken from the state at large.

From 1818 (when the October sessions of the General Assembly were abolished) "Senators" came into vogue, but not districted.

1833 Ashbel Griswold.
1834 Walter Booth.
1837 Noah Pomeroy.
1848 Fenner Bush.
1849 Dexter R. Wright, speaker of the House, 1879.
1854 Julius Pratt.
1861 Orville H. Platt, clerk of the Senate, 1855; secretary of state 1857.
1862 Orville H. Platt, speaker of the House, 1869; United States senator, 1879-1905.
1871 George A. Fay.
1874 H. C. Wilcox.
1876 Joel H. Guy.
1879 H. Wales Lines.
1885 Wm. H. Golden, Jr.
1887 Edgar J. Doolittle.
1889 George N. Morse.
1891 Seth J. Hall, "Dead lock year."
1893 Seth J. Hall.
1905 George E. Bicknell.

1 Beginning in 1875 Meriden was entitled to two representatives.

Town Clerks of Meriden.

COMPILED BY HERMAN HESS.

1806 Amos White.
1806 Isaac Lewis.
1823 Partrick Lewis.
1826 Amos Curtis.
1830 Partrick Lewis.
1834 Albert R. Potter, appointed Feb. 9, 1834.
1834 Eli C. Birdsey.
1843 James S. Brooks, appointed Oct. 9, 1843.
1844 Joel Miller.
1845 Lyman Butler.
1849 Hiram Hall.
1854 Linus Birdsey.
1854 John Ives.
1865 Levi E. Coe.
1866 John H. Bario.
1878 Selah A. Hull.
1886 Herman Hess.

First Selectmen of Meriden.

COMPILED BY GEO. W. MILLER.

1806 Ezekiel Rice, John Hall.
1807 Theophilus Hall.
1808 Marvel Andrews.
1809 Marvel Andrews.
1810 Partrick Clark.
1811 Partrick Clark.
1812 Partrick Clark.
1813 Partrick Clark.
1814 Partrick Clark.
1815 Othniel Ives.
1816 Othniel Ives.
1817 Elisha Curtis.
1818 Elisha Curtis.
1819 Ashael Merriam.
1820 Ashael Merriam.
1821 Ashael Merriam.
1822 Seth D. Plum.
1823 Seth D. Plum.
1824 Seth D. Plum.
1825 Seth D. Plum.
1826 Moses Baldwin.
1827 Moses Baldwin.
1828 Moses Baldwin.
1829 Elisha Curtis.
1830 Elisha Curtis.
1831 Elisha Curtis.
1832 Orrin Hall.
1833 Eli C. Birdsey.
1834 Benj. Upson.
1835 Calvin Coe.
1836 Calvin Coe.
1837 Noah Pomeroy.
1838 Stephen Atkins.
1839 James S. Brooks.
1840 Moses Andrews.
1841 Noah Pomeroy.
1842 Noah Pomeroy.
1843 Noah Pomeroy.
1844 Calvin Coe.
1845 Levi Yale.
1846 Levi Yale.
1847 Levi Yale.
1848 Levi Yale.
1849 Calvin Coe.
1850 Joel Miller.
1851 Joel Miller.
1852 Levi Yale.
1853 Levi Yale.
1854 Levi Yale.
1855 Levi Yale.
1856 Joel I. Butler.
1857 Othniel Ives.
1858 Othniel Ives.
1859 Othniel Ives.
1860 Othniel Ives.
1861 Humphrey Lyon.
1862 Bela Carter.
1863 Bela Carter.
1864 Bela Carter.
1865 Othniel Ives.

1866 Othniel Ives.
1867 S. C. Paddock.
1868 George Gay.
1869 George Gay.
1870 George Gay.
1871 George Gay.
1872 George Gay.
1873 Oliver Rice.
1874 E. D. Castelow.
1875 E. D. Castelow.
1876 E. D. Castelow.
1877 E. D. Castelow.
1878 D. S. Williams.
1879 D. S. Williams.
1880 D. S. Williams.
1881 D. S. Williams.
1882 Geo. W. Miller.
1883 C. C. Kinne.
1884 C. C. Kinne.
1885 C. C. Kinne.
1886 H. E. Hubbard.
1887 LeGrand Bevins.
1888 LeGrand Bevins.
1889 LeGrand Bevins.
1890 LeGrand Bevins.
1891 LeGrand Bevins.
1892 LeGrand Bevins.
1893 LeGrand Bevins.
1894 Geo. L. Ellsbree.
1895 Geo. L. Ellsbree.
1896 Geo. L. Ellsbree.
1897 Ernest A. Leigh.
1898 Geo. W. Miller.
1899 Geo. W. Miller.
1900 Geo. W. Miller.
1901 Geo. W. Miller.
1902 Geo. W. Miller.
1903 Geo. W. Miller.
1904 Geo. W. Miller.
1905 Geo. W. Miller.
1906 Geo. W. Miller.

List of Judges of Probate for District of Meriden.

COMPILED BY HERMAN HESS.

James S. Brooks, appointed by Legislature.
Benajah Andrews, appointed by Legislature.
John Parker, appointed by Legislature.
Hiram Hall, elected 1851.
Orville H. Platt, elected 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856.
Hiram Foster, 1857, 1858, 1859.
George W. Smith, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1868, 1869, 1873, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888.
Levi E. Coe, 1867.
Emerson A. Merriman, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1878, 1880.
John T. Pettee, 1876.
Wilbur F. Davis, 1890, 1892.
John Q. Thayer, 1894 to date.

Mayors of the City of Meriden.

Charles Parker, elected August 12, 1867.
Russell S. Gladwin, elected June 7, 1869.
Isaac C. Lewis, elected June 6, 1870.
Chas. L. Upham, elected Dec. 17, 1872.
Horace C. Wilcox, elected Dec. 15, 1874.
H. Wales Lines, elected Dec. 19, 1876.
George R. Curtis, elected Dec. 15, 1879.
E. J. Doolittle, Jr., elected Dec. 20, 1881.
Chas. H. S. Davis, elected Dec. 21, 1886.
Wallace A Miles, elected Dec. 18, 1888.
Benjamin Page, elected Dec. 17, 1889.
Andrew W. Tracy, elected Dec. 15, 1891.
G. Herrick Wilson, elected Dec. 15, 1892.
Amos Ives, elected Dec. 19, 1893.

Levi E. Coe, elected Dec. 18, 1894. Edward E. West, elected Dec. 19, 1899.
Amos Ives, elected Dec. 21, 1897. George S. Seeley, elected Dec. 17, 1901.
Thomas L. Reilly, elected Dec. 19, 1905.

Clerks of the City of Meriden.

John H. Bario, elected August 12, 1867. John H. Bario, elected Dec. 6, 1873.
B. Frank Pomeroy, elected May 29, 1873. Selah A. Hull, elected Dec. 19, 1876.
Herman Hess, elected Dec. 21, 1886.

EARLY VITAL STATISTICS

A transcript of the record of Vital Statistics of the First Congregational church, Meriden, compiled mainly by Albert H. Wilcox, clerk of the society.

EARLY MARRIAGES.

An Account of the Number of Persons that I Have Married: the Number from October Anno Domini 1729 the time When I was Ordained till January 1: st 1736-7 according to the Best of My Remembrance:

(Theophilus Hall)

Sam[ll] Barns & his Wife: one Judd of Waterbury to Robert Royce his Daughter.
Isaac Brockitt, to one of Sam[ll] Culvers Daughters: Caleb Merriman to Another and Sam[ll] Tyler to Another:
one Baldwin of Brandford to Jacob Royce his Widow
Aaron Cook to his Second and third wife:
Thomas Royce to his second Wife.
one Holibert of Middletown to Thomas Royces Daughter.
Giles Andrews and his Wife:
Stephen Ives & his wife:
John Webb & his Wife:
Lazarus Ives & his Wife.
one of Joseph Curtiss his sons to Elizabeth Parkers Daughter:
Hawkins Hart and his Wife:
Nathaniel Pentfield and his Wife:
Moses Curtiss & his Wife:
John Austin & his Wife:
Timothy Gailord & his wife:
the number is 20 couples

Enos Curtiss & his wife:
Isaac Curtiss to his third wife:
Dan[ll] Johnson to Joanna Preston:
John Hull to Mary Andrews
Joseph Parkers' son & his wife:
Daniel Murwine to Mehitabel Twist:
Daniell Ives and his wife:
Abraham Ives to Barbary Johnson:
John Ward & his Wife:
Sam[ll] Hough to Mehitable Royce:
Henry Stanton to Sarah Scofield:
Jonathan Curtiss to Deborah Mix:

Jan : 3 : Nehemiah Manross of N : (Cambrig?) to Widow thankful Cooper:
Feb : 28 : David Ives to Elizabeth Merriam:
March : 19 : Abel Doolittle of Westbury to thankful Moss of Wallingford:
Octo : 16 : Abel Austin of Wallingford to Temperance Hough:
: 31 : Mr. Ignatius Rhody of Lynn to Mrs. Sarah Merriam:
Decem : 19 : Joseph Hoult of East Haven to Wid Joanna Johnson of Wallingford:
Couples : 6:

Marriages Anno Domini 1737 :
beginning Jan^{ry}. 1st.
Jan Married Joseph Adkins of Middletown to Abigail Rich:
Feb : 28 : Nash Yale to Sarah Emerton.
June : 20 : Nehemiah Pratt of Sea Brook was married to Deborah Hough of Wallingford.
July : :11 : Married Timothy Bartholomew to Mary Hull
Nov : 3 : Jedediah Norton to the wid Eunice Curtiss.
Nov : 29 Eleazer Peck of Southintown to the Widow Ann Camp of Meriden:
Decem : 1 : John Hendrick to Ruth Daughter to Daniel Mix:
Couples : 7 :

Marriages : Anno Domini 1738.
Beginning Jan^{ry} : 1 :st
March : 27 : John Painter to Deborah Welshire:
May : 4 : Benjamin Andrews of Middletown to Tabitha Sanford.
Aug :st 30 : Zerubbabel Jerom to Phebe Cook a second Wife:
Nov^{br} : 9 : Joseph Gailard to Elizabeth Rich
Nov : 13 : William Jerom was Married to Elisabeth Hart
Couples : 5 :

Marriages A : D : 1739 : Begin : Jan^{ry} : 1st—
Feb : 6 : Married Ephraim Munson of Wallingford to Comfort Curtiss
June :6 : Stephen Atwater to Elizabeth Yale
June : 26 : Ephraim Royce to Eunice Harriss
Sept : 23 : Sam^{ll} Levit to Adah Curtiss
Couples : 4 :

Marriages : A : D : 1740 : Begin : Jan : 1 :st
March : 17 : Married Andrew Andrews of Wallingford to Esther Royce
April : 2 : Zebulon Frisbee to Luce Lewis both of Wallingford:
July : 29 : Jonathan Preston to Sarah Williams of Waterbury
Nov : 5 : Timothy Shattuck of Middletown to Desire Hall
Decem : 3 : Benjam Matthews of Cheshire, to Luce Clark of Northbury
Couples : 5 :

Marriages A D 1741 begin : Jan^{ry} : 1st:
July : 1 : Married Ebenezer Hawley of farmington to Mary Hart:
Octob : 14 Daniel Luttonton of East Haven to Susanna Clark
Novem : 19 : Mr. John Johnson of New Haven to Widow Joanna Royce of Wallingford
Decem : 15 : Benjamin Brooks of Cheshire to thankful Hickock
Couples : 4 :

Marriages : A : D : 1742 : begin : Janry : 1st :
Jan : 11 : Married Joseph Stone to Abigail Jearom:
April : 21 : Thomas Heart to Hannah Coe
May : 12 : Nehemiah Manross to Sarah Royce
June : 2 : John Way to Phebe ford:
Octo : 7 Gideon Royce to Mary Dutton
Decem : 15 John Adkins of Middletown to Elisabeth Jerom
Decem : 30 : Amos Camp to Wid. Mary Andrews
Couples : 7 :

Marriages : A : D : 1743. beginning Janry 1:
Novem : 2 : Samuel Foginson was married to Lois Royce:
Nov : 10 : David Rich Junr to Mehitabel Ives:
Nov : 15 : Phinehas Royce of Northberry to thankful Merriman of Wallingford:
Nov : 30 : Jehiel Baldwin to Mary Way:
Couples 4:

Marriages : A : D : 1744 :
Jan : 24 : Married John Way Junr to Hannah Royce:
Jan: 26 : Thomas Berry to Rebecca Yale:
Feb : 2 : Daniel Cowls of Kinsington to Martha Powel:
May : 24 : Benjamin Hart to Phebe Rich :
Aug : 2 : Noah Yale to Anna Ives:
Aug : 22 : Jonathan Collins to agnis Linn:
Sept : 19 : Stephen Mix to Rebecca Ives:
Couples : 7 :

Marriages : A : D : 1745 : .
Joseph Cowls Jun. to Susannah Cook
Tim: Jearum to Ann Norton:
John Prout to Widow Royce:
Reuben Royce to Kesiah Moss:
Joseph Moss to Jones's Daughter:
Samll Beach to Hannah Benham
Couples: 18:

Marriages : A : D : 1746 :
Feb : 20 : Nathanael Yale to Hannah Weeks
June : 23 : Abraham Hall of Wallingford to Mary prindle:
Nov. : 25 : Asa Royce to Annah Royce:
Decem : 17 : Noah Austin of Wallingford to Abiah Hough
29 : Amos Beach of Goshen to Sarah Royce:
Couples : 5 :

Marriages : A : D : 1747 :
March : 25 : Married Gideon Royce to B. Wid. Rebeccr Elenoth of Wallingford : ye 2d wife:
May : 12 : Caleb Merriman of Wallingford to Margaret Robinson:

Octo : 13 : David Dutton to Widow Juda Yale both of Wallingford:
21 : Linus Beach of Goshen to Dinah Royce
May 4 : Mr. Walter to Susanna Smith:
Couples : 6 :

Marriages : 1748 :
Feb : 9 : Married John Coach to Azubah Andrews of Wallingford
10 : Joel Ives of Wallingford to Rebecca Merriam:
: 1747 : In the Summer Nath[ll] : pecks Son to David Cooks Daughter of Wallingford:
Octo : 5 : David Way to Eunice Hall of Wallingford
Couples : 3 :

Marriages : 1749 : Married
Feb : 23 : Josiah Robinson to Eunice Ives.
May : 2 : Jared Spencer of Haddam to Susannah Dickinson:
4 : John Hall to Elisabeth prindle:
10 : William Andrews to Widow Mary Yale:
July : 20 : Tina Thomson of East Haven to Esther Curtiss:
Nov : 9 : Thomas Scofel of Hadlime to Jerusha Scofel:
21 : Saumel Jerom to Luce foster:
Decem : 22 : John Yale Jun. to Eunice Andrews
Couples : 8 :

Marriages : 1750 : Married
Jan : 11 : James Cobbon to Irania Powel :
18 : John Whiting to Sarah Foster:
May : 9 : Jesse Merriam to Mary Johnson:
July : 25 : Daniel Hall to patience Baldwin:
Octo : 31 : Joseph francis Jun[r] to Mary tuttle of Wallingford.
Couples : 5 :
Marriages : 1751 :
Jan : 29 : Married Joseph Mitchel of Deerfield to Lydia Foster
Feb. : 14 : John Ball to Anna Mitchel:
& Barzeliel Ives to Hannah Merriam:
April : 24 : Gershom George (?) to Mary Salter of Cheshire:
May 29 : William Merriam Jun to phebe Ives
Couples 5

Marriages : 1752 :
March : 29 : Married Mr. Jacob Deming of Kensington to Mrs. Abigail Jerom :
June : 3 : Thomas Berry y[e] 2[d] to Annah perkins:
Nov : 9 : Samuel Andrews 2[d] to Lydia Royce
27 : Nathan Cobbin of Deerfield to thankful foster:
Marriages : 1752 :
Decem : 20 : William Hough Jun : to Mary Hall
27 : Benj. Hall of Wallingford to Mary Daughter of Abijah Ives
Couples : 6 :

Marriages : 1753 :
Jan : 17 : Tim foster Jun^{r} to Elisabeth Berry :
24 : Nath^{ll} Hart of Wallingofrd to Elce Hall & Daniel Macky of Cheshire to Hannah Yale :
Feb : 22 : Joshua Curtiss of Cheshire to Sarah Psalter :
May : 8 : Stephen Royse of Cornwal to Mary How of Wallingford
June : 26 : Benj^{n} Tyler to Mehitabel Andrews of Wallingford :
Sept : 24 : Moses Blachley of Northbury to Hannah Dunbar of Wallingford :
Nov : 28 : Joseph Rexford to Lydia Spenser
Decem : 19 : Benj^{n} Merriam to Mary Berry
: 27 : Amos Hall to Mary Johnson of Wallingford
: Aug : 1753 : Abijah Ives to Josiah Mixs Widow
11 C.

Marriages 1754 :
Jan : 9 : Married John Berry to Luce Royce
16 : Matthias Hitchcock of Cheshire to Widow Sarah Hough
31 : John Thomson Jun^{r} of Wallingford to Hannah Eaton of N. Haven :
Feb : 6 : Eldad Curtiss to Tabitha perkins :
March : 20 : Moses Hall to Elizabeth Johnson
May : 16 : John potter of Southington to Widow Elisabeth Spenser
Decem : Mr. John Moss to Widow fenn :
Couples : 7 :

Marriages : 1755 :
Jan. Married Nath^{ll} pentfield Jun^{r} to Lydia Barns
13 : Thomas Dutten Jun^{r} to Anna Royce of Wallingford.
March : 13 : Jonathan Webb to Elizabeth Judd
Spt. 24. Will^{m} Merriam to Mary Austin of Wallingford
Octo : 14 : Benj^{n} Whiting Jun^{r} to Esther Merriam
Decem : 10 : James Scofel Jun^{r} to Hannah Hough
Couples : 6 :

Marriages : 1756 : Jan. 1 :
John. prout & Sarah Corbet :
22 : Thomas Merriam to An Moss of Wallingford
March : 11 : Abel Merriman of Wallingford to Ens Merrimans Daughter
Morlo. A. Blachley to Stephen Ives Daughter of Wallingford :
May : 12 : ——— perkins to Susanna Curtiss
13 James Scofel Jun^{r} to Hannah Hough
Aug : 18 Joseph Atwater Jun^{r} to phebee Holt of Wallingford :
Sept : 16 : David Wetmore to Sarah Stanton of Middletown
Oct : 19 : Joshua How Jun^{r} to Merriam Blachley of Wallingford
Couples : 9 :

Marriages : 1757 : Jan 20
Asa Bronson to Achsah Curtiss
26 : Timothy St John of Norwalk to Deborah Royce

Feb : 10 Asahel Beach to Kesiah Royce of Wallingford
17 : Recompence Miller of Middletown to Isabel Ives
23 : Gideon Horsford to Jerusha Cook & Amos Cook to Rhoda Horsford of Wallingford :
April 14 : Christopher Robinson to Sarah Mix
21 : Enos tuttle to Sarah francis
27 : Thomas Shyoha (?) to Mary Hull of Wallingford

Marriages : 1757 :
May : 5 : Moses Hull to Mary Ives of Wallingford
March Thomas Berry Junr to Annah Merriam
May : 11 : Denison Andrews to Abigail Whiting
Aug : 9 : Mr. John Merriam to Mrs. Hannah Ives :
Nov : 10 : Jotham Hall to Elizabeth Saxton of Middletown.
16 : Abel Cook to Mary Atwater of Wallingford & Gideon Barns of Canaan to Luce Way
Decem : 8 : Thomas Atwater to Lose Hull of Cheshire
13 : Waitstill parker of Wallingford to Martha Hall
Couples : 18 :

Marriages : 1758 :
Feb. 16 : Jesse parker of Wallingford to Dorothy Spenser
22 : Divan Berry Junr to Lydia Yale
March : 9 : Elnathan Ives to Annah Yale
28 : Divan Berry to Widow Andrews
April : 6 : Isaac Royce to Hannah pentfield.
May : 10 : Dennis Covert of N. Haven to Esther Jones of Wallingford :
June : 1 : Samll pentfield to Rebeca Scofel :
29 : Elisha Goodich Junr to Sibil Mix.
Sept : 21 : Joseph Higbee to Abigail Ives of Wallingford.
Couples : 9 :

Marriages : 1759 : Married
Jan : 17 : Elijah powel of Middletown to Mary Andrews : & John Ives to Mary Hall :
Feb : 8 : Hezekiah Warner of Middletown to Lois pentfield :
March 7 : Abel Curtiss to Hannah foster.
June 7 : Ezekiel Royce Junr to Lydia Hough.
21 : Asa Barns to Lois Yale
28 : John Smith of Saybrook to thankful Curtiss
Novem : 15 : Joseph Merriam to Sarah Austin of Wallingford
19 : Daniel Hall Junr to Zeruiah Whitmore
Decem : 27 : William Andrews to Mary Curtiss
Couples : 10 :

Marriages : 1760 : Married
Jan : 10 : John Hough to Lois Merriam
29 : Barnabas Hough to Eunice Weeks.
Feb : 21 : Thomas Foster to Elizabeth Berry
May : 22 : John Newel of farmington to Ruth Merriam :
June Bartholomew Andrews to the daughter of Andrew Andrews of Wallingford

July : 1 : Benjamin Rexford to Esther Hall
Oct : 16 : philemon Johnson of Wallingford Sarah Hall
20 : James Clark a streyer to the Widow Yale
Decem : 4 : Allen Royce to Mindwel Cowls
Couples 9

Marriages : 1761 : Married
March : 24 : John Denison of E. Haven to Sarah Hough
Nov : 19 : Daniel Mecky to Sarah Yale.
Decem : 1 : Silas St. John of Sharon to Abigail Royce
Couples 3

Marriages 1762.
Feb : 11 James Churchhil of Middletown to Sarah pentfield
May : 12 : Jahleel Clark to Esther Yale & Jacob Tyler to Hannah Rigford:
27 : Robert Royce of Wallingford to Jerusha parker
Sept : 30 : Decon Parker of Cheshire to Widow Ruth Merriam
Nov : 18 : Dan^{ll} parker of Wallingford to Merriam Curtiss
Matthew Grant of Torrington to phebe Foster : & William Grant of Torrington to Lois Foster
Decem : 2 : Cornelius Coverling to Sibil Iglestone
Couples 9 :

Marriages : 1763 : Married
Feb : 24 : Joseph Cowls to Widow Rebeccah Rice:
March 31 : Benja^{mn} Curtiss to Mindwell Hough
Oct : 18 : John Morgan of Middletown to Ann Hall Daughter of Israel Hall
20 : Elijah Scofel to Jemima Shaler
Nov : 10 : Isaac Parsons to Leah Clark
17 : Mr. Obediah Allin of Middletown to Widow Hannah Macky
21 : David Hotchkiss of Waterbury to Abigail Douglass
Decem : 1 : Nathanael Luttenton to Elizabeth Macky:
15 : William Johnson of Wallingford to Hannah Cole:
Couples . 9 .

Marriages : 1764 : Married
Jan : 16 : James (or Janna) Meigs of Salisbury to Rebecca Whiting : 6 : 3:
23 : Ephraim Allin of Kensington to Widow Azubah Yale. 3s:
Feb : 6 : Eldad Peck of Kensington to Mary Foster: 6s: & Jonathan Foster to Rebecca Foster—2/3:
May : 10 : Robert pattin to Eunice Curtiss : 2/6
Sept : 6 : Isaac Hall Jun^{r} to phebe Ives of Wallingford 5/2:
Octob : 4 : Ephraim Rice to Abigail Fox of Cheshire 3 : 1
11 Daniel Bradley of oblong to Rebecca Berry Jun : 6s:
15 : Joseph Hall to Sarah prout : 2/9
Couples 9. 37s

NOTE. The figures following each marriage recorded in the years 1764, 1765 and 1766, are records of wedding fees kept in shillings and pence, and added at the close of each year.

ALBERT H. WILCOX, Clerk First Congregational Church.

Marriages : 1765 : Married
Jan : 16 : James (or Janna) Meigs of Salisbury to Rebecca Whiting : 6/3 :
May : 10 : Comfort Butler to Mary Berry : 3/5
Sept : 12 : ye Rev^{d} Burrage Merriam of Stepna to Mrs. Hannah Rice 5/10 :
Nov : 27 Joseph Yale to Martha Levingston 14/2 :
Couples : 4 : 16 : 5

Marriages : 1766 : Married
Jan : 23 John Miles Jun to Abigail perkins : 3s :
Feb : 27 : Samuel Whiting to Hannah Berry : 3s :
Marriage : 1766 : Married
June : 26 : John Butler to Lois Cole 3/9
Decem : 11 : Thomas Mix Jun^{r} of Wallingford to Lois Collins. 6s :
Couples : 4 : 15/9
Marriages : 1767 :

Record of marriages by Rev. John Hubbard.

"1783. Nov^{br} 3 Samuel Collins marrieed to Phebe Ives
December XIth 1783 Lamberton Clark married to Martha Rexford.
February 12, 1784. Married Ephraim Merriam & Bulah Galpin & Levi Robinson and Elizabeth Yale.

Record of marriages by Rev. John Willard.

Marriages : 1786 :

Sept 25 Mr. Hezekiah Miller of Middletown and Miss ——— Bradley of N. Haven
1787 Feby Mr. Edward Collins Mrs. Mary Hall were married
Feby 28th Mr. Dowd & Miss scovil were married
March 22. Mr. Moses Sibly of Ashford & Miss Patience Yeamans
April : 19 Mr. Isaac Rice & Rachel pain
June 14 Mr. Levi Douglass & Miss Hall of Cheshire were married.
July 11 : Mr. John Merriam & Mrs. Johnson were married
July 19 Mr. Samuel Hough Jr. & Miss Anna Page
Sept 10 Mr. Shelden Johnson & Miss Hannah Rice.
Nov. 15 Mr. Matthew Hough & Miss Martha Cowles
1788 Feby. 14 : Mr. Ozias Foster & Miss Phebe Miles.
April 23 : Mr. Dewolf & Miss Hannah Robinson
May 1 : Mr. Todd & Miss Polly Rice were married.

Note. The foregoing copy comprises all the record of marriages kept by Rev. Theophilus Hall during his ministry. Mr. Hall died March 25, 1767, in the 60th year of his age, and in the 38th year of his ministry. He was succeeded by Rev. John Hubbard, and the following are all the marriages recorded during his pastorate which can be found. It is known that many of Rev. Mr. Hubbard's old church papers were stored in the attic o fa house formerly located in the southeast part of Meriden at church papers were stored in the attic of a house formerly located in the southeast part of Meriden at a place called Spruce Glen. This house was afterwards owned by Mr. Hubbard's great grandson, Isaac I. Hubbard, and was burned with nearly all its contents, August 31, 1863. It is supposed that many of Mr. Hubbard's church records were destroyed at that time. Rev. John Hubbard died November 18, 1786.

Albert H. Wilcox, Clerk First Congregational Church.

June 22 Aaron Lyman Esquire to the Widow Rebeckah Hough
Oc 2nd Mr. Solo Yale & Miss Sarah Andrews were married
Oc. 6 Mr. Jesse Merriam Jr & Miss Sally Andrews
Oc Mr. Hull & Miss Carter
Nov 27 Mr. Jerom & Miss Polly Cobbon
Nov 27 Mr Timothy Hall of Cheshire & Mrs. Hannah Hall of Meriden
1789 Jany Mr. Josiah Norton & Miss Phebe Edwards were married
Feby Mr. Samuel Hally & Miss Babbit both of Middlefield were married
May 4 Mr. John Miles & Miss Ruth Atwater were married
June 18 Mr Levi Ives & Miss Fanny Silliman

Marriages 1790 Jany
Mr. Amerton Yale & Miss Mercy Scovil.
Feby Mr. Matthew Yale & Miss Lucy Ives.
April Mr. Joel Mix & Miss Eleanor Merriam
May Mr. John (Richmon?) & Miss Rhoda Adnans
June Mr. Bacon & Mrs. Edwards Septr: 26. Mr. Fletcher Perkins & Mrs. Damaris Miller
1791 Jany Mr. John Butler & Mrs Phebe Foster
Feby Mr. Thos Foster Jr & Miss Hannah Yale
May Mr. Barnabas Yale & Miss Lois Merriam
Aug 24 Mr. Benja Hall & Miss Sally Hall
Octr 20 Mr Matthew Hough & the Widow Woodruff.
Nov 4 Mr. Joseph Ives & Miss Clarissa Hall
Nov 17 Mr Hotchkiss of Cheshire & Miss Keturah Hough
1792 Jany. Mr. Hull & Miss Rice
Feby 2 : Mr Elihu Ives & Miss Hall
Feby 9. Mr. Joel Foster & Miss Lucy Whiting
Marriages 1792 April 19
Mr James Avery Hough & Miss Sarah Todd
Octr Mr Nathl Merriam & Miss Eunice Curtis
1793 Mr Noah Foster & Miss Anner Ives
April Mr Aaron Johnn & Miss Rice
Octr Mr Aaron Curtiss & Susannah Cutler
Nov. 14. Mr Levi Hough Lucretia Merriam
Nov 14 Mr Talmage & Miss Bellamy

1803 Feb or March Mr Hall of Canada and Miss Hart daughter of Mr Benjamin Hart of Meriden
March Doct Theophilus Hall and Miss Bathiah Meriam
May or June Mr Yale & Mrs Butler
August 29th Mr Lawrance to Miss Curtiss
September 1 Lyman Rice to Mindwell Meriam
Nov. 10. John Way to Miss Deborah Hough.
Decem 10 Saturday Seth Plumb to Miss Betsey Hall
Dec 20 John Bliss to Sally Foster
Dec 29. Matthew Foster to Miss Preston

Mr. Willard's remaining records cannot be found. Mr. Ripley commenced in 1803. G. W. P.

Jany 19th Jesse Hawley to Miss Aurilla Cowles
Septem 11th 1804 Chancy Curtis to Anna Hall.
Joel Yale to Lucy Rice
October Sherman Rice to Roxana Meriam
Nov. 21 1804 Phinehas Hough to Miss Desire Cook
Nov 21 1804 Ceaser Augustus Steavenson to Elizabeth Cambridge
1804 Robert & Catherine Freeman
1805 Sept Amasa Hall to Miss Permelia Sanford
Oct Mr Smith to Miss Douglass
Do 24th Mr W Baldwin (?) to Rosetta Griswold
Nov Edward Johnson to Miss Hull
Obed Shepherd to Mary Yeomons
March 13 Levi Rice & Isabel Ives
1806 : Ja 20 Webb I Heart to Clarissa (Peck?)
April 21st 1806 Isaac Hough to Miss Plymert
do 23 Mr Richards to Esther Hough
July or August Dorius Benham to Synthia Cone & Phmehas Lyman to Mrs Monsons
Oct Mr Yeamans 2d daughter
Nov Laura Stow
Mr Hall to Polly Preston.

EARLY BAPTISMS.

Meriden In Wallingford Novemb : 2d 1729 I Baptized Abigail ye Daughter of John Way
Theoph Hal. Paster

this Instant 23 I Baptized Robert : son of Nathaniel Royce
December 28 I baptized Abel ye son of Benjamin Curtiss—
January 25 I Baptized Samuel ye son of David Rich 1729/30.
March 8 : I Baptized thankful Daughter to Jonathn Roberts—
March 22 I Baptized Stephen, son of Josiah Royce.
April 5 I Baptized Joanna Daughter Abel Royce, Benjamin son of Benjamin Royce—
12 : I Baptized Mary ye wife of John Cole.
May : 3 : I Baptized Sarah, Enos, Israel Children of Israel Hall
10 : I Baptized John the son of John Meriam Junr.
June : 7 I Baptized Hannah : Lydia Daughters of Tim (?) Royce and son of Daniel Harris
9 : Ezra—son of Moses Yale—privately
21 : Abigail and Jerusha children of James Scofield
July : 12 : Ezra ye son of Lent Royce
August 2 John ye son of John Yale
August : 9 Danison ye son of Samll Andrews
16 : Samuel—Eunice children of Willm Andrews—
December : 27 1730 Benjamin ye son of Joseph Meriam
March : 21 : 1731 : Elnathan ye son of Elnathan Ives.
April : 4 : Sarah Daughter of thomas Foster
11 : thankful Daughter of John Cole
29 Abigail Daughter of Israel Hall
Rebeckah : Benjamin children of Benjamin Ives.

May 1 : Mary Daughter of Theophilus Mix—privately
23 : Thomas son of Abel Yale—
(Sept ?) 10 Samuel son of James Scofield
Num : 34.
October 24 1731 Baptized Benjamin son of Insign Whitng
Thomas son of William Merriam
31 : I Baptized Joseph son of John Way Elisha son of Nathaniel Royce Novemb : 14 : Baptized Susanna Daughter of Benjamin Curtiss or Whtng (?)
24 Baptized Samuel & Mary twin chl of Samuel Ives privately
28 Baptized Reuben son of John Hickock
December 19 baptized Hannah Daughter of Benjamin Ives

1732.

January 16. Charles son of Josiah Royce
february : 13 : Elizabeth Daughter of Daniel Harris
20 : Titus son of John Ives Elizabeth Daughter of Ebenezer prindle.
27 Mary Daughter of Divan Berry
March : 5 : Luce Daughter of Left. Eze : Royce
May : 21 : Jacob son of Abel Royce and Luce Daughter of Tho : foster.
June — of Tim Royce
July 9 titus son of William Andrews
Aug : 6 : Ephraim son of Sarg. Camp Marshal son of James Allin :
27 : Sarah Daughter of Theo. Mix Sometime after—Eldad son of Moses Curtiss
April : 8 : 1733. John son Divan Berry Samuell son of Samll Ives.
Feb. 11. Abigail Daughter of Elnathan Ives
March—Titus son of Eng. Curtiss
April : 1 : Sarah Daughter of David Ives (?)
April 29 Solomon of John Yale
October 28 1733. Baptized Esther, Mary, David (Mery) Hannah, Thomas, Elizabeth & Abigail children of David Way & Rachel, Else William, Mary & Jonathan children of William Anderson
November : 11 : James son of James Scofield & Dante (?) Daughter of aaron Aspinwel
25 : Arthur Rexford & Esther Daughter of Willm Merriams.
January 6 : 1733/4 nathanel son of Capt. Merriam
Febry : 10 : Rebeca of James Allin & Hannah of Thomas foster—privately
March . 17 . Lois of Benj. Ives.
24 : Willm of Willm Andrews
31. Amy Daughter of David Way.
April . 14 Titus son of Ens. Curtiss
21 : Caleb son of Josiah Royce
May 5 : Rebecca Daughter of Ens. Whiting
June : 2 : Jonathan of Jonathan Roberds
July : 7 : John of John Hecock
July : 21 Samuel, Arthur Joseph & John of Rexford
Num 32.
August : 11 : 1734 Baptized thankful wife of Tim Foster
Abigail Daughter of Israel (?) Hall Mary, of Theo. Mix
18 Deborah of Left Zekiel Royce
September : 1 : moses & aaron of Samll Andrews—twins

December 29 1734 baptized Anna Daughter of Joseph Meriam
February 28. 1734/5 : Benedic of Abel Royce & Jerusha of Elnathan Ives
March : 16 : 1735 baptized my own Daughter Hannah
29 : Ambrose ye son of Thomas Hal
April : 6 : Joseph & Jesse children of John Ives twins.
20 : Mary Daughter of Will : Meriam
May : 4 : Samuel of John Cole & Divan of Divan bury
18 : Phebe Daughter of Sarg Nath Royce
June : 1 : Timothy, Lydia, thnakful, & Hannah children of Tim Foster & Kilbrut of Dan Hall (?)
8 : Christie son of Josiah Robinson
1735 the child born to Wid : Camp of her dec^{d} husband baptized privately
Sept : 7 : Ruth of Tim Royce & Abigail of Moses Curtiss
14. Mary of John Meriam
21 : John of Samuel Hough
Nov^{r} : Benjamin of Benjamin Curtiss
Feb : Abigail daughter of James Allin
March (20?) Ann of Dan or (David)? Way.
April : 11 : 1736 : Baptized Timothy, Mamre, & Lazarus, children of Lazarus Ives.
May : 9 : Baptized Caleb of Aron Aspinwell. Baptized Ambrose of Lazarus Ives
July : 11 : David son of Benj. Ives.
July : 25 : Baptised Allin of Left Ezeqiel Royce.
August : 8 : Baptised Theophilus my first born son
Sept : 12 : 1736. Abigail Daughter of Ens. Whiting
October : 3 : Ruth Daughter of Will^{m} Meriam
17 : Luce, Daughter of John Way
Novem : 14 (or 19) Mary Daughter of Enos Curtiss
Decem : 12 Joseph son of John Yale
19 : Rebecca daughter of Tim Foster
Jan : 2 : 1736/7 Daniel of Arthur Rexford & Thomas of Thomas Foster.
23 : Mary Daughter of John Hickock
Feb : 6 : david of David Sanford
20 : Jotham of Israel Hall David of Abel Yale
March : 13 : Aaron of Aaron Lyman
March : 27 : John of Sarg. Royce & Isaac of Joseph Meriam
(Num : 23)
April : 3 : 1737 : Baptised Mehitabel Daughter of Abel Royce
24 : Tim sone of Joseph Cowls Jun^{r}
May : 1 : Sam^{ll} of Sam^{ll} Andrews & Esther of Asa Yale
9 : phebe an Indian woman privately upon a sick bed
15. Hannah Daughter of Jos Hills Jun^{r}
June. 26 : baptised my Indian Children, patience & Anthony
Sept : 4 : Meriam Daughter of Benj. Curtiss
11 : John of John Meriam
18 : Bethiah of Divan Berry
Octob : 16 : daughter of Dan^{l} Harriss
23 : Samuel of David Way.
Decem : 4 : My Second Son Avery & Lois daughter of Nash Yale.

Jan : 29 : 1737/8 : Matthew of Capt Meriam
Feb : 19 : Job of Benjm Yale
26 : Levi of John Ives & Josiah of James Alling
March : 12 : Ruth of Benj Ives
19 : Hannah of Phinehas Hough
April : 2 : Luce, of peter Curtiss
23 : Isabel of Lazarus Ives
June : 25 : Sarah of Henry Stanton
Aug : 13 : Sarah of Doc. Cooper
August 20 : 1738 Elijah of James Scofield
(Num 26)
Octo : 15 : 1738 : of Thomas Foster
16 : Benjm of Doc. Hough privately—Nov. 12 : Susannah of Sarg. Willm Merriam
Janry : 7 : 1738/9 : baptised John of Ebenezer prindle Samll of Samll Austin Ruth of Asa Yale Lydia of Jedidiah Norton
March : 4 : Joanna Daughter of John painter
18 : Josiah of Elnathan Ives
25 : Mary of Tim Foster Thomas of Benjm Yale
April Deborah of Joseph Merriam
May : 27 : Sarah of Benj Curtiss
July : 15 : Benjamin of Arthur Rexford
22 : Baptised my own son Samuel
Aug : 19 :Hannah of Jos Cowls Junr, Sarah of William Jerom
Sept : 9 : Lois of Asa Yale Kesiah of Joseph Hills —Junr
30 . Abigail Cooper adult
october : 8 : Ezekiel of Left. Royce & Burrage of John Merriam Junr
Decem : 23 : Hezekiah of Abel Royce :
30 : Thomas of Doc Cooper : & Abigail of Alexander Douglass
Feb : 10 : 1740 : Lydia of Tim Jearom
March : 3 : phebe of Tho : Foster privately
16 : Lent of Joash Royce
23 : Joshua of Lazarus Ives
April : 11 : John of Sarg Willm Merriam
June : 1 : Lydya of Phinehas Hough
8 : peter of peter Curtiss Ruth of Stephen Atwater
15 . Joash of Israel Hall
22 : David of Ben : Ives
July : 27 : Rebecca of James Scofel
(Num 36)
August : 3 : 1740 : Baptised Lois of Capt. Merriam : Anna of Enos Curtiss : (?) Hezekiah & Joseph of Joseph Hall (or Hale)
10 : Benjm of Benjamin Yale
17 : Eunice of Jedh Norton.
Mindwell of Ephraim Royce
24 : Mary of William Andrews :
31 : Samuel of Ensign Whiting
October : 12 : Clark of Sargt Nathll Royce.
Janu : 18 : 1741 Abigail of Willm Jearom.
25 . Bartholomew of Timothy Foster

27. Hannah of Divan Berry privately—
Feb : 1 : Solomon of Sarg. Benjm Royce.
22. Asa of Asa Yale
March : 1 : London Servant of John Webb
April : 26 : Joseph son of Joseph Cowls Junr
May : 10 : Son of Samuel Austin
June : 4 : Ruth ford.
July : 19 : Abigail of Left. Ezekiel Royce
July : 26 : James Cobbon, Phebe, Zerubl Jeroms wife, & Thomas of David Sanford
Aug : 2 : Robert of Zerubll Jerom
23 My twins Theophilus & Luce & Abigail of Arthur Rexford
Sept : 13. Sarah of Nash Yale
Sept : Ruth of Benjamin Curtiss
October : 18 : Samuel of Joseph Merriam
Decem : 6 : Lydya of David Way:
John & Sarah twins of Thomas Berry.
27 Martha of Samuel Cowls
March : 14 : Lois of Thomas Foster
21 : William & John twins of Willm Lusk
March 28. Lydia of Benjamin Yale
April : 7 : Andrew of Tim Jerom Junr.
May : 16 : Kesiah of Ephraim Royce
May : 28 : Reuell (?) of (Theophilus) (?) Mix
1742 : May : 30 : Baptised Saah of Alexander Douglass
June : 20 : Mary of Divan Berry
July : 18 : Kesiah of Joseph Hills Junr.
Sept : 12 : Jesse of Joash Royce & Elizabeth of Joseph Stone
primus servant of Lazarus Ives : Sometime ago
19 Abigail of Joseph Cowls Junr Stephen of Stephen Atwater
26 Susannah of John Merriam Junr
October : 17 : Elisha of James Scofel & Jane of John Livingston
Nov : 21 : Huldah of Abel Royce
Decem : 5 : Jedediah of Jed : Norton :
26 Rebecca of thomas Berry
:Num 48 :
Jan : 9 : 1743 : Hannah of Ebenezer Royce:
March : 13 : Josiah of John Way & Sibil of Asa Yale
27 : Amasa of Lazarus Ives
April : 10 : Agift a child of David Hills.
June 5 John of John painter.
June 26 : My Daughter Mary & Levi of Benjm Ives
July : 17 : Esther of Abel Yale & Enos of Samll Cowls
31 : James of phinehas Hough
Sept : 18 : Thomas of Zerubbabel Jerom:
25 : Lydia & Mindwell children of Ebenezer Cowls
october : 2 : Samuel of Ens : Whiting
16 : Abigail of Daniel Bradley
23 : Deborah of Joseph Merriam & Amos of Amos Camp
30: Lydia of Timothy Andrews

Feb. : 26 : 1744 : Abigail of Ephraim Hough :
March : 11 : Reuben of Elnathan Ives : & phebe wife of John Way
April : 1 : Huldah of Ebenezer Cowls.
April : 8 : Zebulon of Zebulon Peck
May : 6 : Nash of Nash Yale & Mary of Elijah Peck
13 : Hannah of Divan Berry
20 : Sarah of John Way & Huldah of Tho. Foster
June : 17 : Levi of Sam^{ll} (Austin?)
July : 1 : James of Sarg^{t} Nath^{l} Royce & Comfort of Enos Curtiss
8 : Alexander & Rebecca twins of Alexander Douglass
July : 15 : 1744 Ephraim of Ephraim Royce
Aug : 5 : Jehiel of Jehiel Baldwin
Sept : 2 : Joseph of Joseph Stone
9 : Anna of Israel Hall
Josiah of David Rich Jun^{r} & fortune servant of Sarg^{t} Jerom
Sept : 23 : Abel of David Way
Sept : 30 : Eunice of Stephen Atwater Timothy of Joseph Cole Jun^{r}
Nov : 9 : Mary of Lazarus Ives Enos of Benj^{m} Yale
Nov : 11 : Aaron of Benj^{m} Cu^{r}tiss
Decem : 30 : Kate Servant of Sam Hough : the number baptised 1744 : 28
1745 : Jan : 27 phebe of Joash Royce titus of Gideon Royce.
March : 10 : My Son Elisha
31 : Benjamin of ye Widow Hart Ellis servant of John Ives
April : 21 : James of Will^{m} Lusk
26 : Joel of Jeremiah How Jun^{r} privately
28 : phebe of Asa Yale
May : 5 : Mindwell of Daniel Hough
12 : Asahel of Zerubbabel Jerom
26 Luce of Elijah Peck
June : 9 : Levi of Noah Yale & Nehemiah of Thomas Weeks
July : 7 : Lament of Jonathan Collins.
21 : Elisabeth of Will^{m} Jerom
Aug : 11 : Rebecca of Abel Royce
18 : a child of James Scofel.
Sept : 8 : Rhoda ford
15 : Susannah of Joseph Merriam
22 : Phinehas of phinehas Hough & Will^{m} of Ichabod Stark
29 : Sarah of Ephraim Berry & Joseph of Joseph Hills :
Octo : 13 : Edward of John Painter
27 : Chloe of Moses Yale :
Decem : 8 : Martha of John Livinstone.
15 : allathere of John Way.
22 : Asahel of Ens. W. Merriam
28 —— ——
1746 : Jan : 22 of David Rich of N : Cambridge
Feb : 2 : Ebenezer of Ephraim Royce
9 : Theophilus of Stephen Mix
In March or April : Sarah of Nath^{ll} Royce & Irania of Arthur Rexford
April : 27 : Katherine of Moses Mitchel

25 : Grinne of servent of Sargt Jerom
June : 1 : Alexander of Alexander Douglass
8 : thankful of Sargt Benjamin Ives.
29 : Enos of Enos Curtiss
1746 : July : 6 : Moses of Joseph Cols Junr
20 : Rhode of William Andrews.
Aug : 10 : Mary of Gideon Ives : & tobiah servant of Widow Ives.
17 : abel of Zebulon peck
Sept : 7 : Insign of Dan[ll] Hough
Octo 5 Mary & Clare children of Joel Mitchel
Decem : Elisha of Timothy Andrews
In Meriden : 19
1747 : Jan : 18 : of Abel Yale & ozias of Benj Yale.
Feb : 1 : agnis of Jonathan Collins & David of Jehial Baldwin
8 : Ann of Saml foginson :
15 : Abigail of John Way
March : 8 : oliver of Ebenezer Royce :
18 : or 13 : Ezra of Asa Yale.
22 : My daughter Eunice :
April : 26 : abner of Joash Royce
May : 17 : 1747 : John of Laz : Ives.
Lois of Willm Jerom
Eunice of Nathll Yale
June : 7 : of Samll Cowls
12 : Mary of Abraham Hall privately
28 : Caleb of aaron aspenwell
July : 12 : Rebecca of Stephen Mix
26 : Lois of Nash Yale
Aug : 9 : Mercy of phinehas Hough
16 : anna of Thos Foster & of Noah Yale
Sept : 6 : David of Stephen Atawter & Champe a Negro child of Laz. Ives
13 : Mehitable of Jos. Merriam & Dan of Saml (Austin?)
Octo : 11 : Eunice of Ephraim Royce
25 : Elisabeth of Nathl pentfield : & Rachel of Asa Royce :
(28 :)
Jan : 10 : 1748 : Joel of Joel Mitchel
17 : Huldah of Elnathan Ives.
24 : Elijah of Dan[ll] Hough
March : Eunice of Ebenezer Cowls privately
27 : buel of Ebenezer Hough
April : Joseph of Jacob Andrews Amasa of Gideon Ives
24 : negro child of John Merriam Junr
May : 18 : or (13) of Jonathan Collins & of Joseph Cowls Junr
15 : Higginson of Joseph Hills
July : 24 : asaph of Moses Mitchel
Aug : 7 : My Daughter Mehitabel & Lydia of Ephraim Berry.
14 : Wait of Gideon Royce & Susanna of John painter
Sept : Levi of Benamin Ives
Decem : Stephen of Stephen Mix.

18.

1749 : Jan : Rebecca of Sam^{ll} Mitchel & Mary of (Joash?) Royce, afterward Benj. Yales child.

Noah Yales child : Abel yales child : Tim Andrews child : (alether?) of John Way : Laz. Ives child.

October : 29 : Comfort of John Cole : Eunice of Gideon Ives. Thomas of dan^{ll} Hough : afterwards Jonathan Collins child :

Dec 10 Jacob Andrews child

24 Samuel of Dan^{ll} Baldwin

Num : 19 :

1750 : Jan : 28 : Mary of Stephen Atwater :

march : 25 : Justus of Gid Royce a child of Stephen Mix : a Negro child of Amos Camp

Apbil : 8 : (perish?) of James Coburn : a child of phinehas Hough

May : 27 : Enos of Sam^{l} Austin : Mehitabel of (As-royse?)

1750 : Baptisms : June : 29 : (or 24) Elisha of Ebenezer Cowls.

Time Servant of Dec^{n} Benj^{n} Royce

June : Moses of Moses Mitchel

July : 29 : Daniel of Abel Yale Barnabas of Nath^{l} Yale

Sept : 9 : Mary of John Way.

October 7 : Samuel of Sam^{ll} Rexford

Nov : 18 : Esther of Joseph Cowls Jun

Decem : 30 : Rachel of Timothy Andrews

Num : 17 :

1751 : Baptisms : Jan^{y} 27 : Mary of Jonathan Collins

Feb : 24 : Jerusha of Saml Co^{l}es

March : 17 : Samuel of Dan^{ll} Hough. Elias & Gideon of Elias Roberts

18 : Esther of Doc : I : Hall privatey.

24 : Elisabeth of John Yale Jun^{r}

May : 5 : titus of Will Andrews Samuel of Samuel Jerom

19 Sibel of Joseph Curtiss

Aug : 4 : Anna of Ephraim Berry

18 : Eunice of Ebenezer Cowls My Daughter Mehitabel :

25 : John & Justus of Nehemiah Manrow :

Sept : 8 : Esther of Daniel Hall—afterwards Abel of Nehemiah Manro

Nov : 24 : Benjamin of Jacob Andrews :

Decem : 1 : Samuel of Ebenezer Royce :

num : 20 :

1752 : baptisms : Jan : 5 : amos of Gideon Ives.

12 Samuel of Ba^{r}zeleel Ives afterwards anna of Noah Yale privately

Feb : 7 : Ruth Lothrop

9 Gideon of Gideon Royce

16 : (Thodel?) of Samuel Rexford & Lucy of Sam^{ll} Jerom

23 : Christopher of Joseph Merriam

In Jan^{y} a child of Elias Roberds

1752 : Baptisms : March : Benj^{m} of Benjamin Yale & Lois of Enos Curtiss : afterwards a child of Stephen Mix :

April ye 19 Ann of phinehas Hough :

26 : Hannah of Dan^{ll} Baldwin Jun^{r}

May : 3 : Rebecca of David Ives & : Jeptha of Joseph Curtiss

Aug : 2 : Mary of Moses Mitchel & Josiah of John Yale Jun^{r}
9 : Elisabeth of Doc Hal & Seth of Asa Royce :
23 : Mary ann of Hez : Dickinson :
25 Elisabeth of Stephen Atwater privately
Sept 24 N S Stephen of Ephraim Royce
Oct 22 Daniel of John Levinston
Nov 19 Ezekiel of Hez Dickinson
26 : phebe of Lazaus Ives :
Dece : 3 : phinehas of Tim : Andrews :
10 : Lois of Joseph Hough
24 : Martha of Dan^{l} Moss of Kent :
Num : 28 :
Baptisms : 1753 : Jan : 21 : Baptised Lois of Dan^{l} Hall
Feb : 4 : Asahel of tho : Dutton :
March : 4 : Joseph of Sam : Austin :
25 : Eunice of Dan : Hough :
May : 6 : Moses of Ebenezer Cowls :
27 : Jonathan of Ephraim Berry :
June : 10 : Amos of Heman Hall :
17 : thankful of Ephraim Hough : afterwards Nathanael of Abel Yale :
Octo : 14 : Eunice of Sam^{ll} Merriman Nath or Nash of Joel Mitchel & Joseph of Joseph Cowls Jun^{r}
Decem : 2 : Keturah of Jon : Colllins Rachel of Reuben Royce : Enos of Gid : Ives : before Bethiah of tim : Foster Jun^{r}.
Num : 16 or 17.
John of John Parsons privately
Baptisms : 1754 : Jan : 13. Mary of Gideon Royce :
20 : Amos of Thomas Mix :
26 : Daniel Holt.
March : 17 : Elisabeth of Daniel Baldwin Jun^{r}
April : 7 : Jotham of Moses Mitchel & John of Sam^{ll} Jerom :
21 : Eunice of Daniel Hall
May 19 : a child of Joseph Curtiss :
26 : Ebenezer : Allen of Tim : Brunson :
July : 14 : Joel of Noah Yale :
26 : Ruth & John & Huldah of Josiah Robinson Jun^{r} : & —— of Sam^{ll} Galpin : afterwards Asa of asa Royce : a chid of Stanley :
Sept : 15 : Susanna of Left : Lyman : Justus of John Yale Jun^{r}
Octo : 13 : Benjamin of Laz : Ives. Samuel of John Berry : & My Servant phyllys : a child of Ebenezer Cowls : & one of Ephraim Royce :
Num : 23
Baptisms : 1755 : Jan : Baptized 3 children att town :
feb : 2 : Dolle of Dan^{ll} Hough. afterwards a Child of timth Foster Jun^{r}
April : 20 : a child of John Livinstone :
May : 25 : My Son Elisha :
June : 1 : Huldah of Abner Curtiss : Jonathan of Jonathan Collins a child of Joseph Cowls Jun^{r}.
Aug : 3 : Molle of Hez : Dickinson.
10 : Tim : of Jerom : & David of David Spenser :

Octob : 12 : Jerusha of Gideon Ives :
Nov :23 : philene of francis Wetmore :
Aug : 12 child. att town att one time :
Decem : 28 : Benjamin of tim : Andrews :
Num : 13 in the month : & 15 att town
Baptisms : 1756 : Jan : 11 : John Coach & azubah his Wife :
18 : Elisabeth of John Coach & John of Saml[l] Scofel :
25 : Mehitabel Timthy : Moses & abner of John Way : & Nathanael beedle & Samuel of Samuel Johnson.
Feb : 1 : Enoch of Caleb Merriman
Since : Saml[l], Lydia, anna of David Royce Danl[l] of Danl[l] Hall (or Holt) a child of Joseph Curtiss : Joseph of Ezra Royce. a child of Saml[l] Galpin phebe of Willm Merriam :
June : 6 : Mehitabel of John Berry :
13 : phinehas of Nathl[l] pentfield Junr
July : 4 : amerton of Nash Yale :
11 : Lois of Ephraim Hough
Aug : 8 : Katherine of Danl[l] Baldwin Junr
19 : ( ) of Nash Yale
26 : Susanna & Mary of Willm Hough :
Decem : Giles of Tim foster Junr Eunice of Josiah Robinson Sarah of John Cooch
Num : 32 : J : Scofel & Noah Yales
Baptisms : 1757 : Jan : 2 :
(S E Clark : & Sam?) of Jesse Merriam privately : after Justus of Gideon Royce : & a child of Ebenezer Cowls
Feb : 6 : Hannah of John Way since a child of doc Hall one of Ambrose tuttle : one of Danl[l] Hough : a child of Saml[l] Hall :
April : 24 : John of Saml[l] Jerom :
May : 8 : Mary of Robert Austin : Mary of Moses Mitchel : & John of John Yale :
15 : Gideon of Gideon Ives :
22 : Amos of Moses Royce.
June : 19 : Jedidiah of Nathan Scofel : after a child of Titus Merriman :

NOTE.—Remaining records of Baptisms of Rev. Mr. Hall cannot be found. Most of the records of baptisms by Rev. John Hubbard are missing. The following are all known of.

November 16 1783 Elisha Merrimans Chid named Orin
Thomas Spencers Child Matthew
November 23 Capt. Chamberlains Child Clarissa baptised
1784 Isaac Hubbards Child baptised January 18 named Rebecca
Israel Halls child baptised February 1 named Elisha
February 8 1784 John Merriams Child baptised named Anna
Baptisms by Rev. John Willard
1786 July a Child of Mr & Mrs Hull named—
Aug a Child of Benjamin Curtis & wife named Asahel
Septr A Child of Mr & Mrs Farrington named Orrin
Septr A Child of Mr & Mrs Amasa Rice named Lee By Mr Huntington
Sept. The wife of Mr. Ammerton Yale.
Sept. A Child of Ambrose Hough named :
Octr : 5 Children of Mr. Jonathan Collins & his Wife named as follows, Keturah, Levi, Selden, Lament & Dema.

Oct A child of Mr. Caleb Hough named orrin
Oct. 2 A child of Mr. Elisha Merriman named Damaris
Nov 25 Capt Dan Collins
Dec : 6 : A child of Mr Elisha Cowles named Eldad :
Dec 31 : A Child of Mr. Ashbel Beach named Samuel Bellamy
Dec 31 : A Child of Phineas Hall named Noah :

1787

March : 18 : 4 Children of Capt Dan Collins & his wife were baptized named, Molly, Susannah, Lucy & Lyman.
Also a Child of Mr Israel Hall
April 29 : 2 Children of Chatham Freeman & Mareah his wife were baptized : Named Jube & Kate.
June A Child of Mr & Mrs Lawrence named billy.
Also a Child of Lieut Hough & his wife named Ruben
Dec 30. A Child of Capt Joseph Edwards & his wife named Betsey

1788.

Jany 20th a Child of Mr Griswold named Rosetta
Feb 3 Mr Samuel Collins, also 2 Children of his named Samuel & Hulsey

NOTE.—No further record of baptisms until the year 1803. G. W. P.

Baptisms 1803.
A child of Joel Yale named Harriet
Do of Iva Curtis named Samuel Ives
Do of Asahel Yale named Keturah
Do of Dea. Yale named Neomy hannah
May 29 5 children of Mr. Root named Samuel, Joel, Sophia, Sabrina & lucy
July 3 an infant of Avery Hough
July 31 An infant of Moses Hall by Mr. Miner
Nov 20th An infant of (Samuel) Butler named Samuel
Jan 1 1804 An infant of Silas Rice named Ruth Curtis
May 27 do do of Isaac Rice named Benjamin
July 29th 1804 the children of Benjamin Merriam Junior & Noah Foster
By Rev James Noyse namely Julia & Benamin Ely, Meriam & Levi, Eli, Mary, Othniel & George Fauster.
Fall a child of Aaron Johnson
July 7 1805 do of Iva Curtiss named Erastus
August 11th If I mistake not, a child of John Yale
Baptisms 1805 Octo 13th The Wife of John Yale
1806 August 3 A child of Isaac Rice Titus Andrews
August Eli Barns
do Three children of Eli Barns by Mr Smith
Nov 2 Two of Theophilus Hall

DEATHS.

A Bill of Mortality or an account of the Number of Deaths in the parish of Meriden in Wallingford began to be taken Feb. 11736-7.

The number of Deaths from Decembr 1 : 1728 : the time I began to preach att Meriden till August : 29 : 1734 : the time I came to Dwell at Meriden : (according to my best Remembrance :)

Isaac Royce & his Son ye wife of John Merriam Jun. & his child : 2 children of Theophilus Mix : One Thomas Prindle : the wife of Moses Yale & her child : a daughter of Thomas Yale : a child of Enos Curtiss Thomas Seward 2 Infants of Sam^{ll} Ives twins : a child of Divan Berry : the aged Widow Robberds : a child of Ebenezer Prindles : one of Israel Halls children

num : 18

deaths from 1728-1748

The number of Deaths from Augst 29 : 1734 : till January 1 : 1736 7.

Sam^{ll} Ives and his wife : Sarg : Cap & his Infant : Josiah Royce : Lydia Yale : a daughter of Capt' Meriam : a child of Theo^{p} Mix : Ebenezer Prindles Daughter : a child of John Meriam Jun : a child of Moses Curtiss : a child of Joseph Hills Jun. 2 Children of John Hickox : a child of Willm Meria^{m} : 2 children of Thomas Foster : Aaron Lymans negro.

Deaths Anno Domini 1737 : beginning Jan^{y} : 1 :

Feb : 20 : a child of Benj : Ives :

March : 3 : Died Moses Curtiss :

May : 2 : Died Timothy Royce

May : 14 : Died Phebe an Indian Woman In my House :

May : 16 : Died Mary Infant of Zerubbabel Jearum

May : 22 : Dyed Sarah Daughter of Ens : Whiting :

the number 6 :

Deaths Anno Domini 1738 : Begin : Jan^{y} : 1 :

June : 28 : Died John y^{e} Son of John Merriam Jun :

Septem : 3 : Died Rachel Daughter of Lef Ezkel Royce

Decem 30 of Thomas Foster :

number : 3 :

Deaths : A : D : 1739 : Begin : Jan^{y} : 1st :

Feb : 4 : Dyed Lois Nash Yales child

Feb : 14 : Dyed John, Ebenezer Prindles child :

May : 7 : Dyed my own son Theophilus Hall :

July : 14 : Dyed John ye son of Sarg^{t} Josiah Robinson

Sept : 18 : Dyed Lydia Jedediah Nortons child

Oct : 10 : Dyed Kesiah Joseph Hills Jun^{r} child :

Nov : 15 : Dyed Theo : Mixs Negro man :

Decem : 31 : Dyed Levi, John Ives child

number : 8 :

Deaths : Anno Domini 1740 : Begin Jan^{ry} : 1st :

March : 31 : Dyed Susannah Sarg^{t} Willm Merriams child

May : 2 : Dyed Esther Abel Yales Wife

May : 7 : Dyed Eben^{r} Sanfords Negro Boy :

May 12 Dyed Deborah Joseph Merriams child :

June : 8 : Dyed Jonathan Joseph Cowls Jun child :

June : 8 : Dyed Doc William Hough's wife :

July : 7 : A son an infant of Robert Collins Jun :

Nov : 2 : Mr Bartholomew Foster Died :

Deaths : Anno : D : 1741. Begining Jan^{ry} : 1st :

Jan^{r} : 29 dyed Hannah Infant of Divan Berry :

Feb : 7 : Dyed Rebecca Rich :

May : 13 : ye aged Thos Beach

May : 18 : dyed an Infant of Eben^{r} Sanford :

May : 23 : Dyed a son an Infant of Abraham Hills
Sept : 12 : Dyed Abigail Daughter of John Way :
Sept : 17 : Dyed Joseph son of Joseph Cowls Jun^{r} :
Decem : 9 : Dyed a son of Moses Yale :
Decem : 10 : dyed ye wife of John Way :
Decem : 27 : an Indian child att Mr. Sanfords
number 10
Deaths : A : D : 1742 begin Janury : 1 :
Jan : 23 : Dyed John : a twin of Thos. Berry.
Feb : 4 : y^{e} wife of John Cole
March : 11 : Sarah other twin of Tho^{s} : Berry :
March 29 : Doc Ebenezer Cooper
May : 2 : Samuel a child of Ens : Whiting :
Octo : 21 : Eunice Yale :
Oct : 25 : Susannah Infant of John Merriam Jun^{r}
Num : 7 :
Deaths : A : D : 1743 : begin Jan^{y} : 1 :
Sept : 23 : the wife of Tho Berry
October : 15 : Lydia child of David Way :
October : 19 : Sarah another child of David Way :
Nov : 25 : Dyed y^{e} wife of Timothy Andrews
number : 4 :
Death : A : D : 1744 :
Feb : 20 : Phebe an Indian Child In my House :
April : 11 : an Infant of John Cole :
Aug : 20 : Alexander Infant of Alx^{d} Douglas :
Sept : 7 : the other twin of Alexander Douglas :
num : 4 :
Deaths : A : D : 1745
Feb : 16 : Benjamin Hart
Feb : 25 a negro child of Sarg^{t} Jerom
June : 18 : Joseph ye son of John Ives :
Aug : 4 : John Ives
Aug : 20 : Robert Collins Sen^{r}
Aug : 29 : Titus the son of Will^{m} Andrews
Sept : 4 : Samuel son of Capt Royces att N. London
10 : Levi a child of Sargt Benjamin Ives
29 : Mary a child of Gideon Royce :
Octo 28 : Mathew Infant son of John Way :
num 9
Deaths : A : D : 1746 :
Feb : 9 : Samuel Ives
: 14 : Phebe a child of Asa Yale
March : 27 : Sarah daughter of Benjamin Curtiss
April : 7 : An Infant child of Robert Collins :
May : 2 : the wife of Gideon Royce :
4 : a child of Curtiss
10 : a child of Ebenezer Royce
12 : a child of Moses Mitchel :

July : 20 : an Infant of Joseph Cowls Jun^{r}
Aug : 3 Primus Servant of Capt^{n} Merriam :
8 : My own son Elisha
26 : the aged widow Andrews
October : two negro twins of Lemuel Hough :
Decem : 13 : a negro child of Lazarus Ives
num : 15 :
Deaths : 1747 :
April : 7 : a child of Edward Collins
May : 12th : the wife of Abraham Hall
June : 3 : the wife of Robert Collins
July a negro child of Widow Ives
Aug : 10 : a child of Abraham Hall
18 : ye wife of Thomas Yale
Octo : 3 : Child of Noah Yale
17 : ye wife of Ephraim Royce
27 : Dan Baldwins negro man
20 : London servant to John Webb :
: 21 : Samuel Houghs negro woman
num 12
Deaths : 1748
Feb : 9 : Widow Ives Negro woman
28 : Sargt Jerom negro child
March : 26 : ye wife of Ebenezer Cowls
April : 23 the wife of William Andrews :
24 : a child of Ebenezer Cowls
June : 2 : Robert Powel
Deaths—1748
Sept : 6 : a child of Jehiel Baldwin
8 : another child of Jehiel Baldwin :
10 : a child of Ephraim Hough :
11 : Moses Yale :
21 : a child of Edward Collins :
22 : ye wife of Jehiel Baldwin
Octo : 9 : My daughter Mehitabel :
15 : y^{e} Widow Mindwel Royce
Nov : 9 : ye wife of Aaron Lyman
num : 16 :
Deaths : 1749 :
Jan : 15 : a child of James Corbett.
23 : a child of John Couch
May : 21 : a child of Asa Royce
June : 22 : a child of Tim Andrews an Idiot :
July : 26 : a child of Edward Collins :
Aug : 9 : a child of Abel Yales
Octo : 19 : Lois daughter of Benjan Curtiss :
Decem : 12 : A child of Nath^{l} Pentfield : a monster:
24 a negro child of Nath^{tl} Yale
Num—9 :

Deaths : 1750 :
Feb : 23 : Dyed Sargt Tim. Jerom :
April : 3 : a child of Joseph Hills
May : 13 : Bristo negro of John Merriam Jun
July : 1 : Theophilus Mix
14 : Gideon Royces negro man :
Sept : 6 : ye wife of Henry Stanton :
26 : Mr. Thomas Yale :
October : 8 : A child of Nehemiah Manrow
14 : David Way
19 : A child of Nehemiah Manrow :
29 : A negro child of Amos Camp
: Nov : 16 : A child of James Corbit :
Num : 11 :
Deaths : 1751 : Dyed
Jan : 5th : A child of Jacob Andrews
: A Boy of Benjn Yales
Feb : 10 : A child of James Curtiss
13 : 2 Children of Ichabod Stark :
24 : A negro child of Ebenezer Royce
April : 30 : the Wife of Mr. John Merriam
May : 21 : John Merriam Junr negro child.
Aug : 7 : Sargt Jos Merriams negro woman
9 : a child of James Cobon
10 : the Wife of James Coburn :
23 : old Mr. Camel
31 : A child of Gideon Porter :
Sept : 6 : Henry Stanton
13 : A child of John Yale Junr
16 : John Way
19 : Ashburn Way.
Sept : a child of Joseph Hill
Octo : 4 : Left. William Merriam :
6 : a child of Jonathan Collins :
Decem : 23 : John Prout :
: 29 : a lad of Capt Robinson
num : 22 :
Deaths : 1752 :
Feb : 9 : Ruth Lothrop a girl att Capt. Robinsons.
March : Mr James Allin.
April : 19th : a child of Gideon Royce :
Deaths : 1752 : June : 27 : David Hough.
July : 19 : a child of Zadoc Doolittle :
30 : Susannah Hough
Aug : 24 : Sargt Joseph Merriam
Sept : 20 : N : S : an Infant of James Corbit
Octo : 3 : a child of Zadok Doolittle :
15 : the wife of Divan Berry :
18 : Ebenezer Royce

Num : 11 :
Deaths : 1753 :
Feb : 23 : ye Wife of William Merriam :
April : 24 :a child of Joseph Curtiss:
30 : Bethiah Daughter of Divan Berry :
May : 20 David Ives :
Aug : 15 : My Daughter Hannah (?) at New London :
18 : an infant of Ephraim Hough :
Decem : Oliver of Widow Abigail Roys.
Num : 7 :
Deaths : 1754 :
an infant of John Salter
March : 30 : Widow Elizabeth Ives :
Some time in the Summer 2 children of Warner :
Oct : 11 : Mr. John Merriam
14 : a child of Hez : Dickinson.
15 : another of Hez : Dickinson
30 : Benjn Curtiss :
Nov : 5 : a child of Francis Wetmore :
9 : James Hough :
15 : Capt : Webb, Mother Merriam :
Decem : 21 : Mary Tudrah or Tindrah?
Num : 12 :
Deaths : 1755 :
March : 9 : a Boy of Ambrose Tuttle :
April : 24 : the Wife of Eldad Curtiss :
June : 2 :My son Elisha :
29 : a child of John Levinston :
July : 17 : a child of John Berry :
28 : a child of Asa Royce
Aug : 31 : a child of Doct Hall
Sept 21: a child of Jos Andrews of Southington
Nov : 12 : a child of John Couch :
13 : another of Couchs child :
Decem : 15 : a child of Widow Way
: 19 : Stephen Mixes Wife
Num : 12 :
Deaths : 1756 :
Jan : 11 : ye Wife of Timothy Andrews
March : 29 : Moses a lad of James Scofel:
April 5 : a child of Moses Mitchel :
24 : A Child of Ichabod Stark :
July : 8 : a child of Gideon Ives :
18 : A child of Ichabod Stark
Sept : 11 : a child of Titus Merriman
13 : a child of Caleb Merriman :
Octo : 4 : a child of Ephraim Royce:
8: Joseph Thorpes wife
9 : a child of Ephraim Royce :

24 : A child of Elon Andrews :
Nov : 25 : a child of Will : Hough
Decem : 1 : a child of Jos : Curtiss :
5 : ye wife of John Meriam :
8 : Willm Andrews.
: before : a child of Abner Curtiss
Num : 17 :
Deaths : 1757 :
Jan : 1 : a child of Ephraim Royce :
2 : a child of Jesse Merriam
April : 3 : Wife of David Spenser :
May : 14 : Deacon Samll Royce
July : 24 :the wife of Danll Hall Junr
Aug : 2 : a child of Ephraim Hough
Octo : 4 : Aged Mr. Collins
Nov : a infant of Benj : Royce Junr
Num : 8
Deaths : 1758 :
Jan : 17 : an Infant of Asa Bronson.
20 : Decon Benjm Royce :
Feb : 3 : a Negro Girl of Josiah Robinson Junr
19 : the Wife of Enos Tuttle :
June : 8 : My Negro child Gin.
29 : My Negro child Rose :
Aug : 11 : a child of Charles Bailey
Nov : 6 : an Infant Negro child of Samll Hough
after a Negro child of Left. Hough
Decem : 23 : an Infant of Ens : Hough
N : 10 :
Deaths : 1759
Jan : 1 : Dyed an Infant of Divan Berry Junr
March : 11 : the Wife of Decon Robert Royce :
19 : a Negro child of Capt : Robinson :
30 : Smith a stranger & a single woman
April : 2 : Decon Robert Royce.
About April or May a child of Noah Yale
July : the aged Mr. Harris
Sept : 21 : a child of Benamin Merriam
Octo : 10 : a child of Abel Austins
11 : another child of his
12 : his Wife
Nov : 13 : an Infant of Ezra Royce
Decem : 14 : a child of Ens. Abner Curtiss
N : 13 :
Deaths : 1760 : Dyed
July : 24 : an Infant of Ezra Royce just born :
Sept : 13 : a Negro Child of Samll Hough.
17 : a Child of Ezra Royce
Octo : 8 : a child of John Hall

Novem : 6 : two Infant twins of Thomas Foster :
29 : The aged Mr. Joseph Cowls
Decem : 2 : Abraham Hall
6 : Christopher Robinson
7 : the aged Mrs. Berry.
N : 10 :
Deaths : 1761 : Dyed :
Jan : 1 : Ephraim Berry
30 : Gideon Royce
31 : an Infant of John Griswold just born
March : 13 : Rhode Ford
June : 29 : a Child of Josiah Robinson Jun^{r}
July : 19 : Daniel Meky :
20 : an Infant of Divan Berry Jun^{r}
Aug : 12 : the Widow Deborah Merriam
Oct : 22 : Joseph Blanchard
25 : an Infant child of Abner Curtiss Jun.
N : 10 :
Deaths 1762 Dyed
Feb 4 a Negro Child of Left. Camp
March : 7 : Alexander Douglass
May : 8 : Joseph Dickinson
25 : Silas Curtiss son of Left. Curtiss
June : 6 : Mr Josiah Clark
12 : a lad of John Hall being Scalded
July : 2 : a child of Benja^{m} Merriam, an Idiot :
30 : Isaac Rice
Sept : 14 : Ephraim Rice
26 : an Infant Child of Thomas Berry Jun^{r}
Oct : 5 : the Wife of Joseph Cowls :
10 : Bartholomew Foster :
Deaths 1762 :
Oct : 14 : Rebecca Pentfield
: a child of Noah Yales
Nov : 30 : Barnabas a lad of Nath^{ll} Yales
Num : 15 :
Deaths : 1763 :
Dyed Jan : 28 : a Child of Timothy Foster Jun :
Feb : 6 : Mr Pentfields Negro Man :
April : 2 : Mr. Sam Houghs Negro Woman Zill :
June : 8 : David Yale was found Dead having hanged himself as the Jury Supposed
Sept : 9 : a Child of Allen Rice :
Octo : 15 : Capt : Webbs Negro Woman Lille
Nov : 22 : a Child of Phinehas Hall by falling on a pen knife :
29 : a child of Enos Hall
Decem : 18 : Aaron Curtiss
Num : 9 :
Deaths : 1764 : Dyed
April : 6 : a Lad of Left. Eben. Cowls :

May : 6 : Lois daughter of Ens Yale :
29 : an Infant of Abel Curtiss
June : 3 : a Negro Child of Doct. Hall
13 : a Child of Benjamin Rice :
July : 2 : a Child of Asa Barns
6 : the other twin of Asa Barns
Aug : 23 : Abigail Daughter of Joseph Coles.
Nov : 20 : Elizabeth Pentfield :
N : 9 :
Deaths : 1765 Dyed
Jan : 30 an Infant of Thos Berry Junr
May : 3 : a Child of Joseph Merriam by Swallowing a Ry Ear
30 : Experience Tyler an old Maid :
31 : the Wife of Jonathan Collins :
July : 2 :an Infant of Isaac Hall Junr
Sept : 4 : Dec : Ezekiel Rice Esq :
Num : 6 :
Deaths : 1766 : Dyed
Feb : 4 : Phebe Daughter of Laz : Ives :
March :21 :Joel a lad of Samll Jerom
April : 2 : Capt Josiah Robinson :
Nov : 10 : Mary Infant of Samll Whiting.
Decem : 5 : Infant of Banjn Hough
Num : 5 :
Deaths : 1767

(The following records of deaths are not the handwriting of Mr. Hall, probably some clerk's.)

Revd Theophilus Hall died Mach 25, 1867 aet 60th an in ye 38th year of his ministry.
A child of Joesph Meriam
Joseph Meriams wife
a child of Benjn Meriam
Capt Meriams wife.
Deacn Samll Rices widow
A child of Joseph Cole
a child of Divan Berry Junr
a child of Caleb Merriman
a child of Eliphalet Horton (or Norton)
Mrs Mehitabel Hall daughter of the Revd Theophilus Hall died Sept. 11
The Widow Smith
William Merriams child
A child of Yale Bishop
No. 14.

The whole number of deaths in ye proceeding Catalogue from Decemr 1 1728 to Jany 1 1768
348—
1768—Dimon Berry
The Wife of John Livingston
July 25 Danll Hough

Dec^{r} The Widow Eaton
12 Dan^{ll} Hall
The youngest child of Ephraim Rice
1769 Elijah Scovils Child
June Alling Rice's Wife & Child

NOTE.—The next record of deaths is that of Rev. John Hubbard's ministry, and is all that now remains of the records of this church.

Novembe 25, 1783 Samuel Merriams Child Benedictt died
30 Nathaniel Douglass Child
Thomas Berry died.
December 3^{d} Day died Capt. Divan Berry.
Record of deaths, by Rev. John Willard.
1786 July The Wife of Mr John Merriam
July The Wife of Mr Samuel Johnson
July The Wife of Esq^{r} Lyman
Nov^{r} 18 The Rev^{d} Mr John^{n} Hubbard died aged 60.
1787 Jan^{y} 13. One Jervis a transent person
Jan^{y} 19 Miss Sally Meky aged 17 :
March 25 a child of Mr Joel Yale aged a year & 10 months
A Child of Mr. Samuel Balden
Mar Mr. Halsey Rice
July 26. The Wife of Mr. John Miles aged 60.
Oc. The Widow Douglass aged about 84
Oc. A Negro child of Capt. Webb.
Dec. An Infant Child of David Foster.
Deaths 1788
Jan^{ry} 4th. A Child of Chatham Freeman (Negroe)
Ja^{ny} 15. Oliver Son of Giles Collins aged 19:—
Feb^{y} 15 Mrs Ives wife of Mr. John Ives aged 45
Feb^{y} 22 Mr. Foster aged 88.
Feb^{y} 24. Deacon Hough Esquire aged 52.
March 27. Mr. James Scovil aged 88.
April : Miss Polly Galpin.
May 1 A Negro Child belonging to Jack & Bet.
May : An Infant of Mr Jesse Merriman
May : 27 : A Daughter in Law of the Widow Andrews.
July 7th Capt Joseph Edwards in the 46th of his age
15 An Infant of Mr. Jotham Hall
August 5. Mr. Moses Hall aged 53.
August. An Infant Negroe Child belonging to Jack
Nov. The Wife of Mr. Amerton Yale
Dec. An Infant of Mr Amerton Yale
Dec. The Wife of Mr. Isaac Hall.
1789 Jan^{y} 11 Miss Anna Guy
Jan^{y} a child of Mr. Ephraim Hough.
Feb^{y} A Child of Mr Benja Rexford Jr.
March A child of Mr. Ezra Butler.

Deaths—1789.
May a Child of Mr. Daniel Baldin.
—15. A Daughter of Mr. Simion Perkins aged 16.
July 11. Mr. Ozias Foster
July 16. The wife of Ezra Butler.
August 13 An infant Child of Mr Samuel Hough being drowned in his Mill pond.
Septr 30. Mr. Nash Yale Jr.
Oc. Mr. Anthony 40
Nov. 19. an infant child of Mr. Simeon Perkins.
1790 March 6th the wife of Mr Jesse Merriam died
March 21st. The Wife of Mr. Samuel Hall aged 45
April 6 (or 5) a Child of Mr Samuel Rice aged 10 years
April. An infant Child of Mr. Lamberton Clarke
May Mrs Coverland.
May an infant of Mr. wade
June 26 the wife of Mr. Beckwith :
July The Widow Whiting aged 94.
July The wife of Mr Matthew Hough
July 28 Samuel Langdon, Son of Revd John Willard aged a year & ten months.
Septr 27 A Son of Mr. Joel Rice aged 12 years.
Nov 17 The wife of Capt. Joseph Shalor.

1791.

Jan'y 20 a child of Mr Isaac Atwater
Jany 25 Mr Edmund Merriam aged 30
Deaths—1791.
Feby an Infant of Mr. Wades.
Feby An Infant of Mr Abel Barns
March an Infant of Mr. Berry
March an Infant of Mr. Dewolf
March 11 the Wife of Mr. Dewolf.
March the Wife of Mr. Sanderson
March 29 Mr .Samuel Hall aged 52.
Apl 19 Mr. Oliver Hough aged 21
May 12 the wife of Mr. Levi Curtiss
June Mr. Elihue Lawrence.
July A child of Mr. Upson.
July An infant of Mr Barnabas Yale.
August 12. Mr. Jesse Merriam aged 63.
August 24 The Wife of Mr. Phineas Hough Ae 67
Septr Mr William Merriam aged 63.
Septr Mr. Hotchkiss in the army
Oc. The widow Hall aged 74
Oc 28 An infant ofMr.Abel Barns
Novr An Infant of Mr. Joel Rice
Novr The Widow Johnson aged 85.
Nov. —— Goodrich was killed in the army
Nov. George Hall in the army.
Dec. 18. an infant of Mr. Jotham Hall.

1792.

Janʸ. The Widow Davenport
Fe bʸ. A transieⁿt person at Mr. Timothy Fosters.
Febʸ. 9. A Child of Mr. Asahel Berry aged 3 years.
Febʸ. Joseph Shalor
March 2. An infant of David Foster.
March 10. The Wife of Mr. Caleb Todd aged 24.
March The wife of Benja Hall.
April. The Widow Hall aged 93.
June : an infant of Mr. Samuel Anthony.
Septʳ. The wife of Elijah Hall
Octr an infant of Lt. Elisha Merriman.

1796. Deaths—(33)

March 25. a pair of twin Children of the Revᵈ John Willard & Huldah his wife who died in the birth.
April An infant of Mr. Hookers
April The Wife of Thos Stone (or Stowe)
May. The wife of Mr. Olds.
June. An infant of Mr. Joseph Hall.
July 15 Deacon Isaac Hubbard aged 44
Aug. a Daughter of Mr. (Melorth?) Silby aged 3 years.
Sept. An Infant of Mr. Fitch Ives.
Sept. 12. a Daughter of Mr Giles Griswold aged 3 years.
Septʳ a Daughter of Mr. Giles Griswold aged 5 years
Septʳ 29. A female Infant of Mr. Giles Griswold.
Octʳ 1. The Wief of Mr. Dana Andrews aged 60.
Octʳ. 2. An Infant of Mr. Amos Foster.
Octʳ Mr. Johⁿ Miles aged 73.
Novʳ. An Infant of Ebenezer Baldin.
Decʳ. 27. Mr. Raynolds Beckwith aged 92.

1797.

Feby. A child of Mr. Sanderson aged 2 years.
March. Hannah, a Child of Mr. Asahel Berry aged 14.
March 31. The widow Berry aged 85.
April 2. The wife of Levi Hough aged 22.
April 14 A son of Mr. Brocket aged 14.
April 30. The Widow Sarah Andrews aged 60.
May 12 The wife of David Scovil.
July : An Infant of Samuel Yale.
July 16 The wife of Daniel Baldin aged 75.
Deaths 1797. (26)
August 6. Mr. Caleb Merriman aged 72
Septʳ 2. Mr. Phineas Hough aged 84.
August 13. An infant of Mr. Moses Root.
18. The wife of Noah Austin aged 77.
Octʳ Mrs. Parmale aged 44.
Nov. 2. Mr Abel Curtis aged 67.

NOTE.—Part of the record of deaths is missing.

Nov. 8. Mr. Moses Mitchel 74
Nov. Mr. Abel Hawley 82.
Nov. an Infant of Aaron Merriam.
Nov. An Infant of Jairus Mix
Decr. Mr. Amasa Rice aged 48.
28 The wife of Nathl Merriam aged 61
1788. (Error—should be 1798.)
Jany—A Child of Mr. Crane aged 4 years.
March 18. Mr. Elijah Scovil aged 23.
March 31. A child of Mr. Joseph Merriam aged 3 years
June 5. The wife of James Baldin aged 34.
Septr. An Infant of Mr Bishop
Octr. The wife of Mr. Nash Yale aged 84.
Novr. Capt. Bezalel Ives aged 72.

1799.

March 22. An Infant of Mr. Simpson
Apl. 2. Mrs. Simpson aged 34.
Apl. 3. A Child of Mr. Joseph Twiss aged 8.
May 6. Capt. John Webb aged almost 92.
Deaths—1799.
May 8. An Infant of Mr. Asahel Yale.
May 10. An Infant of Mr. Aaron Merriam
May 18. An Infant of Fitch Ives—
May 24. Miss Eleanor Payne aged 44.
May. An Infant of Fletcher Perkins.
May 25. The wife of Capt. Couch aged 73.
July A Daughter of Prindle Hall.
August 13. An Infant of Mr. Silas Rice.
August 14. An Infant of Mr. —— Taylor.
August 24. Mr. Moses Tufts. 70
Septr. The wife of Mr. John Austin aged 93.
Septr. 20. A Child of Nthl Merriam Jr. aged about 2 years
Septr. 30 the wife of Mr. John Butler aged 21.
Octr 1. The infant of Mr. John Butler
Novr 23. Mr. Elisha Cowles aged 49 :
Decr 7. Mrs. Lois Yeamans aged 72.

1800.

Feby 9 Mr. Daniel Baldin aged 86.
March 5. The wife of Capt Cone formerly The Widow Eunice Yale aged
Apl 29. An Infant of Mr. Daniel Twiss.
May 1. An Infant of Mr. Levi Foster
July Deacon Cowles aged 82
Octr 13. William Curtis aged 18.
Decr The Widow Sarah Yale aged 89.
Novr Mr. Farrington aged 55.

1801.

Jany 31. The wife of Marvel Andrews & their Infant.

Deaths 1801.

Feby 1st An Infant of Elnathan Ives Jr

Feby 9th The wife of Mr. Leavet aged 80
Feby. an Infant of Mr. Amos Cowles
March. An Infant of Mr. Moses Root.
March. The wife of Mr. Joseph Hall aged 29
March 30th The wife of Mr. Silas Rice aged 25 :
Apl Mr. Miles Hull died aged 32
Octr an Infant of Mr. Levi Foster.
Novr 9. The wife of Mr. Stephen Talor.
Novr 15 Aaron Lyman Esquire aged 94 wanting four days.
Novr An Infant of Mr Thos Stow.
Novr An Infant of Mr. Asahel Rice.
Novr An Infant Child of Mr. Aaron Foster.

1802.

Jany 2. Mr. Edward Collins aged ninety
Feby 7 An Infant of Mr. Othniel Ives, which died in the birth
Feby 14. The wife of Mr. John Plymet aged 40.
Feby. An Infant of Mr. Samuel Baldin Jr.
March. A Child of Mr Joel Yale aged 4 years.
March 30. Mr Nash Yale aged 88 2-4 years.

Records by Rev. Erastus Ripley

April A child of Aaron Merriam.
Death—1802.
April. An infant of Mr. Adkins
Do do of Mr. Noah Foster
Do Miss Clarissa Anthony aged 17
do An infant of Mr. Iva Curtiss
May 7. Mr. Noah Austin
do A Daughter of Mr. Andrew Hough aged 21.
June 6. Jack a Negro aged about 46.
19 A child of Benjamin Hall aged 1 year.
July 2d The Wife of Isaac Hall aged 59
June 29. Benjamin son to Isaac Rice aged 5 years.
July 10. Two infants of Benjamin Hall.
15 Daniel Hall Junior aged 46
August 13. The Wife of Samuel Whiting Esquire aged 58.
Sept. 14. Died at Dea John Halls the Widdow Hall of Walingford aged about 70 years.
15. A Daughter of Cornelius Hull aged 1½ years.
Widdow Elizabeth Hall aged 70
Widdow Deborah Hull
Decm 6th. Mabel Allen Deceased aged 22 years
Decm 30th a Male Infant Deceased being a Twin Child of Decn Natht Yale
Octr The Widow Deborah Hull Deceasd
Lois Daughter of Mr Andrew Hough Deceased the last summer
Nov. 11 John Austin aged 98 years
James Daughter of Andrew Hough deceased the last summer

Deaths 1803.

An infant of Deacon Yale.
Jan. 19 do of Samuel Way.

Feb. 15. Samuel Whiting Esq. aged 60.
17 Alma daughter of James Baldwin aged 17 years
26. Noah Yale aged 80 years
March 3. An infant of Amos Curtis
July 14 Miss Anner Rice aged 47
Do 15 A Son of Dean Nathaniel Yale aged 4.
August 29 A child of John Hooker aged 1 year
Septem. Axe daughter of Amerton Yale aged 9 years.
October 8th The Widdow Mitchel.
Do. 9. Mr. Nathaniel Douglass.
Do. 15 Captain Samuel Ives aged 52.
Nov. 22. A child of Yale Hough aged 2 years.
Do 26 A child of Timothy Ives Junior aged 2 weeks.
Dec 29 Samuel Leavet aged 87.
16 in all.
Feb 1804 A child of Oliver Andrews.
A child of liberty perkins
Feb Mrs. Peck widdow.
March The wife of Phinehas Lyman
May Mrs. Selbey
Theophelus Hall.
August 18 Wife of Samuel Yale.
September a child of Mr. Conory.
Nov. 1st 1804 Mr Phinehas Hall aged 90.
March 1804 a child of James Bradley
10 in all.

1805.

Feb 17th Joseph Meriam aged 35.
Do 18. the wife of Berry Lyman 22.
March 6th The wife of Daniel Twist 50.
May 29. A child of Moses Barns
May or June A child of Avery Hall.
June 9th the Wife of Avery Hall 28.
Do a child of Abijah Bradley.
July 11th or 12th Nob Squaw 60 or 70.
August 28th a child of Mr. Simpson aged 15m.
September 19th Widow Anna Collins 67.
Cornelius Hull about 35.
Do 10th a child of Yale hough.
Octo 19th Old Mr. Austin aged 85.
Do a child of Mr Tibbels aged 1 day
Do 26 Daniel Hall aged 78.
Do 29. Howel Meriman about 36 or 37
Nov 29 Jotham Hall aged 21
Dec 1. Abigal Mitchel age 19.
Dec 8 1805 a child of Mr. Spencer.
Do 14. Mr. Joel Yale aged 47
Do 23 Mr. Bracket aged 49.
Do 24. Miss Levina Mitchel aged 20
Total 23

1806 Jan. 12. Joseph Cowls aged 96.
Jan. 21st An Infant of Mr Ellinds or Allins (?)
Feb. 23. a child of Eli Barns 2.
March 3. The Widdow Hubbard 70.
Do 12th Miss Polly Mitchel 49
Do 22 A child of DanielTwist
Do 24 or 5. Widdow Webb aged 94.
April 9 or 10 A child of Yale hough.
Do 11th Capn Cooch aged 81
April 28th Selden Meriam aged 22.
May, Child of Levi Curtis aged 3 days.
15 Patience Johnson 40 or 50
20 A child of Widow right aged months.
June 7th Widdow Barns aged 62.
Do 15 Jeremiah Winscot aged 21.
July 1st 1806. Tabatha Rice aged about 19.
Do 29th A child of the Old Widow Hull aged 5
August a child of Patric Clark
Octo 9th Mr Thomas Foster aged 70
Do 11th A child of Cap N Ives.
Nov. 1. a child of Mr. Gleason
Dec. 19 Widow Lyman aged 90
Dec. 20 Captain Holt about 80
Do 24 Titus Meriman aged about 80
24 in all.



L. Bancroft Gillespie

PART II.

MERIDEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Col. Charles L. Upham

The firing upon the flag at Fort Sumter caused intense excitement throughout the entire North; patriotic men and many whose sympathies had been with the South at once determined to support the government and to maintain at all hazards the integrity of the Union.

April 14th, 1861, the President called for seventy-five thousand volunteers "to repossess the forts, places and property which had been seized, and to maintain the perpetuity of popular government."

On the 16th, Gov. Buckingham called for volunteers to form one regiment of Infantry to serve three months. Meriden quickly responded with a patriotism that did not falter during the entire four years of war.

The Meriden Light Guards, Capt. Theodore Byxbee, was the only military organization in Meriden. The morning after the issue of the Governor's proclamation and after a canvass of its members, Capt. Byxbee* drove to Hartford, reported to the Adjutant General his company as ready—the first organization to respond to the call.

April 19th, an immense war meeting was held in the Town Hall, presided over by the Hon. Charles Parker; eloquent and patriotic speeches were made by O. H. Platt, Dexter R. Wright, Rev. D. Henry Miller and G. H. Wilson. It was unanimously voted to instruct the selectmen to call a town meeting immediately for the purpose of appropriating five thousand dollars to equip the Meriden Light Guard. Mr. Parker announced his purpose to give each member a Colt's revolver.

April 25th a town meeting was held, of which Eli Ives was moderator. "It was voted that the town of Meriden appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars for the purpose of defraying the expenses of clothing, arms, cash advances, and other outfit for the company of volunteers from this town, lately mustered into the service of the United States and for any other company of volunteers of Meriden which

* At the Governor's call for volunteers for one regiment for three years, a canvass was made of the Light Guards, and as there was a general desire to enlist, I at once opened a recruiting office and received more than enough applications to form a company. They organized at once and elected me Captain. As there was no train for some hours, I, accompanied by Richard H. Foster, drove to Hartford and offered my company to the Adjutant General. Governor Buckingham was at his home in Norwich. A telegram was sent him and his reply was "accepted." There were present a number of gentlemen including General Hawley and Colonel Burnham, who gave three cheers for the first company offered and accepted THEODORE BYXBEE.

may hereafter be mustered into the same service; also for the further purpose of supporting the families of the said volunteers now or hereafter to be mustered into said service from this town. Voted, That Isaac C. Lewis, John Parker, Humphrey Lyon and Moses Waterman be a committee to receive said appropriation and to apply the same to the purposes and objects intended."

The military laws of this state were such that the Governor had no authority to order a regiment of militia beyond the state; the Light Guard, therefore, was required to reorganize as a company of volunteers and was mustered into the state service April 18th, and assigned to the First Regiment Conn. Vols., as Company F; was mustered into the United States service April 22nd, 1861, and left for Washington May 10th, with the following roster:

CAPTAIN—Theodore Byxbee, promoted Major.

FIRST LIEUTENANT—Geo. Wilson, promoted Captain.

SECOND LIEUTENANT—Oliver S. Sanford, promoted First Lieutenant.

SERGEANTS—David T. Lyon, promoted Second Lieutenant; Richard H. Foster Hiram Botsford, Frank B. Wright.

CORPORALS—Joseph H. Tole, Frank J. Carter, Benj. W. Warner, Seager S. Atwell.

MUSICIANS—John Mackay, Thomas W. Crawford.

PRIVATES—Julius Adams, William J. Brooks, Edward T. Blodgett, Albert T. Booth, Thomas Burns, E. Lewis Bull, John C. Brooks, Augustus Campbell, Albert A. Carter, Daniel E. Comstock, Levi O. Curtis, Julius O. Deming, David E. Deming, Charles E. Everts, Horatio W. Everts, DeWitt C. Isbell, Daniel B. Johnson, Rendolp Kauert, Andrew W. Loomis, Frank B. Lax, Chas. C. Lee, Wm. O. Levaughn, Abram Minor, Edward McCarty, Dennis O'Brien, Henry H. Pierce, Francis W. Parks, John S. Quinn, Charles Roberts, Alexander Rache, Elijah Eggleston, Jr., Henry A. Eggleston, George A. Ely, Roger M. Ford, Geo. W. Flint, Raphael Gilbert, Gottleib Grumdeo, Samuel W. Geer, Henry Grove, Alfred P. Green, Frank Hunt, Dwight H. Hall, Nathan B. Hoyt, Lauren Hall, John W. Hall, Henry Hall, Edward Hibbard, George K. Hyde, Newton A. Roberts, Henry Rich, William L. Seward, John Splaguer, George M. Stevens, Benjamin R. Sherman, Theron Scott, Edward H. Shumway, Milton Sagendorf, Geo. W. Taylor, Peter Talbot, Edward Tallmadge, Joseph S. Wright, Henry Warnock, John B. Willitt, Zopher C. Woodward, Enoch Wilcox, 2nd.

A second company to serve three months was immediately formed, which went to rendezvous April 29th; was assigned to the Third regiment as Rifle Co. B, and mustered into the United States service May 14th, 1861, and left for Washington May 23rd, with the following roster:

CAPTAIN—Jared R. Cook.

FIRST LIEUTENANT—Frederick J. Peck.

SECOND LIEUTENANT—Asa S. Cowdry.

SERGEANTS—Charles L. Upham, Solomon H. Woods, Wallace Bull, Isaac W. Cook.

CORPORALS—Thomas A. Knight, Eliph't W. Bliss, R. Scott Cheney, Frederick Doolittle.

MUSICIANS—Thomas Moesley, George W. Farnham.

PRIVATES—John V. Adams, George N. Bailey, Emil Berger, Elbert A. Bell, John Barlow, Henry C. Burr, Julius Bassett,

Farwell Booker, Frank H. Bowen, John G. Barrows, George W. Clark, Andrew W. Cook, Sylvester J. Cook, Joseph Dainton, John K. Doolittle, Osborne F. Elwell, Wilbur Fisk, William H. Fisher, John Finnegan, William B. Greene, Albert P. Greene, Gilbert J. Goodyear, Benjamin Gould, Homer Hamilton, Warren Hall, George Hirschfeld, Henry W. Hirschfeld, Benjamin L. Hough, James F. Lewis, Walter S. Lord, William G. Lewis, Chas. N. Lewis, Thomas J. Leeds, Addison Lanfear, Jacob McCall, Norris Matthews, William C. Maines, Benjamin C. Mallory, Michael Meehan, George Mecorney, James Meachin, William C. Moroney, Giles J. Newton, Joseph H. Parker, Frederick Pfannekuchen, Zeno M. Redfield, John L. Richmond, James H. Riley, Edward Riker, Chas. Scrader, William H. Shaw, Chas. Sleeter, George A. Strong, William W. Thompson, Elnathan B. Tyler, Albert Von Esser, John H. Vorra, Thomas Warnock, Samuel C. Williams, George C. Williams, Isaac Williams, Henry H. White, Joel W. Yale, John Yale, Jr.

These Meriden companies were in Keyes' Brigade, Tyler's Division, and were actively engaged at the Battle of Bull Run and acquitted themselves with credit. Colonel Keyes says, "The gallantry with which the Second Maine and Third Connecticut regiments charged up the hill upon the enemy's artillery and infantry was never in my opinion surpassed."

General Tyler says: "I saw the three Connecticut regiments with two thousand bayonets march under the guns of Fort Corcoran in good order, after having saved us, not only a large amount of public property, but the mortification of having our standing camps fall into the hands of the enemy. I hope, General, that you will appreciate this service on the part of a portion of my division, and give credit to whom credit is due."

Upon the return of these two companies at the expiration of their term of enlistment, the citizens of Meriden, to show the appreciation of their services, gave them on August 20th, a grand parade and ball.

From an early hour in the day, friends and strangers continued to arrive from the surrounding towns, some in cars, many on horseback and in wagons, and hundreds on foot, until two o'clock, when the procession was formed, hundreds of non-residents were present. The procession was formed at the Town Hall, the military under command of Major Byxbee, and the civic under direction of Joel H. Guy, Esq., marshal of the day, with nineteen aides. The military parading were the Trumbull Guard, Capt. D. R. Wright, the two companies of returned volunteers; a company enlisted for the Seventh Regiment, Capt. O. S. Sanford, and the Veteran Guard, of Meriden, the remnant of an ancient corps called the Meriden Greys, Capt. Alfred P. Curtis; following these was the civic procession on foot, on horseback and in carriages. The march about town was a splendid ovation. After a circuitous route the procession arrived at the Town Hall. At four o'clock there was a dinner in the hall at which hundreds were present. After hunger was satisfied, Judge James S. Brooks called the assembly to order, when Capt. Wright inaugu-

rated the speaking with a patriotic address. Speeches were made by Captain Cook, Elder Swan and Father Walsh of the Roman Catholic church. In the evening there was a ball, at which the first men of the town were active participants and the ladies were out in full force.

THE THREE YEARS MEN.

Company C, 7th Regiment.

In the summer of 1861 a company was raised which was assigned to the 7th Regiment as Co. C. This regiment left the state for Washington September 18th, was in the expedition to Port Royal and was the first to land, and their flags were the first on the soil of South Carolina. These Meriden men with their regiment have a brilliant record and well entitled to their reputation as a fighting regiment. They saw service in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and were at the taking of Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

ROSTER.

Captain—Oliver S. Sanford, promoted Major.

First Lieutenant—Ossian L. Hatch.

Second Lieutenant—Seager S. Atwell, promoted Colonel.

Sergeants—John J. Hutchinson, promoted First Lieutenant; E. Lewis Bull, promoted Adjutant; Edward J. Merriam, promoted Second Lieutenant, died of wounds; Raphael Gilbert, promoted Second Lieutenant; Henry H. Pierce, promoted Second Lieutenant.

Corporals—Alfred P. Green, 2nd, Augustus Campbell, promoted Sergeant; Ira B. Smith, promoted Captain; Isaac N. Westerveldt, promoted Second Lieutenant, First Artillery; Chas. E. Hamilton, Hobart H. Smith, promoted Sergeant; William C. Cutler, Dennis O'Brien, promoted First Lieutenant.

Musicians—Wm. S. Edgerton, 1st, Wm. S. Edgerton, 2nd.

Wagoner—Silas Davis.

Privates—Wm. H. Augur, promoted Quartermaster; George W. Andrus, killed in action; Henry Avery, died; Wm. F. Ackerman, died; William E. Augur, promoted Corporal; James W. Belden, died of wounds; Isaiah L. Baker, wounded; Edwin H. Butler, wounded; George Blake, died; George Burrows, died; Osmond Bronson, wounded; Levi Barnes, died; Bernard G. Bassett, Walter Bartholomew, John H. Bario, promoted Corporal; Eli Bouchi, Watson Curtiss, Edward E. Crandell, Ralph P. Childs, Henry Deangelist, died; William H. Davis, John Donahan, Watson W. Davis, promoted Corporal, died; Isaac Dorman, William H. Evans, Chas. H. Fuller, Daniel Goodspeed, Alexander Goodspeed, George B. Garritt, promoted Corporal; Anson S. Goodenough, promoted Corporal; John W. Galligher, promoted Corporal, wounded; Burton W. Goodenough, Chas. Holmes, William L. Hill, John W. Hall, Jasper Hale, Edwin Hibbard, promoted Sergeant; Charles H. Howe, Edwin Illsbury, Dewitt C. Isbell, John R. Jackson, Joshua Jones, died of wounds; Daniel B. Johnson, promoted Sergeant; James Kewell, wounded; Henry Longden, Dexter M. Latham, John A. Lego, died; Chas. P. Lewis, killed in action; John A. Leeds, promoted Sergeant, wounded; Chas. McWhinney, died in Florence, S. C.; James A. Miller, killed in action; Abraham Minor, killed in action; Elkanah Morse, John H. Munson, Thomas McCormick, Henry Marshall, deserted; Jesse W. Perkins, George B. Paddock, wounded; Horace G. Painter, wounded, died in Andersonville; Edward F. Pettibone, Chauncey W. Roberts, died in Florence, S. C.; John Richards, Justin Redfield,

Derrick A. Roberts, wounded; Samuel N. Sperry, Samuel L. Spencer, Edward Smith, George E. Sellew, Henry Slater, wounded; James Thrall, Rollin Tenant, wounded; Gilbert Talmadge, Robert Thompson, wounded; Alexander H. Ventrus, Chas. F. Waterman, died; Francis Williams, Thos. V. Wells, Norman S. Wood, promoted Sergeant; Edward Westerhood, killed in action; William A. Wedmore, William Warner, died in Andersonville; Horace W. Wright, Charles W. Yale, promoted Corporal, wounded.

Joined as Recruits—Julius Augur, John Byxbee, died; Henry A. Edgerton, accidentally killed; William Frazier, John B. Flint, Walter H. Merriam, wounded; Nathaniel B. Rogers, musician; William Scofield, died.

Company K, 8th Regiment.

This company was recruited late in the summer of 1861 and was assigned to the 8th Regiment as Co. K. It left the state October 17th for Annapolis, Md., and was a part of the Burnside Expedition. From North Carolina the regiment was sent to reinforce the Army of the Potomac when Lee invaded Maryland, and at the battle of Antietam was conspicuous for having advanced the farthest of any of our forces on their part of the field. Their losses exceeded fifty per cent. Near Petersburg and at the assault and capture of Fort Harrison it added to its reputation. Company K was composed of men of excellent character, and among those who carried rifles were two clergymen. The company was noted in the regiment from the number of enlisted men (sixteen) who received commissions during its term of service.

ROSTER.

Captain—Charles L. Upham, promoted Colonel 15th, wounded.

First Lieutenant—Noah P. Ives, promoted Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

Second Lieutenant—Roger M. Ford, promoted Captain, wounded.

Sergeants—Wm. H. Johnson, promoted Second Lieutenant, died; John H. Vorra, promoted Second Lieutenant, wounded; Levi C. Bingham, promoted First Lieutenant, died of wounds; Milo J. Goodrich, promoted Second Lieutenant; Frank J. Carter, wounded.

Corporals—Geo. M. Stevens, promoted Second Lieutenant; Sam H. Foster, Wm. G. Lewis, killed in action; Isaac Williams, Edmund A. Parker, promoted Second Lieutenant; Albert T. Booth, promoted First Lieutenant, wounded; John H. Simonds, killed in action; Alpheus Starkey.

Musicians—Geo. W. Farnham, promoted First Lieutenant; Edwin F. Strong.

Wagoner—Warren Hall.

Privates—Francis L. Albee, Levi Allen, Chas. W. Allen, died of wounds; Lewis Allen, wounded three times; Lyman D. Allen, wounded; Bartholomew Bailey, Gordon P. Bailey, Leonard Bailey, Isaac C. Bartholomew, Heber L. Bassett, Charles H. Bassett, Wallace W. Bates, died; Benjamin H. Beebe, Edward G. Billett, wounded; Elijah W. Bingham, Seth D. Bingham, Hiram A. Blakeslee, wounded; Henry C. Burr, wounded; George Camsell, wounded; Kelsey D. Clark, Morris C. Clark, Wallace T. Cloud, promoted First Lieutenant; John D. Comstock, died; Lucius J. Cook, Charles H. Dagle, Geo. V. Dagle, killed in action; Chas. S. Dickinson, Charles Dixon, promoted Chaplain Sixteenth; John K. Doolittle, died of wounds; William E. Dudley, promoted Corporal, wounded; Jacob Eaton, promoted First Lieutenant; Osborn F. Elwell, Lemuel B. Evarts, Barney Fitz Harris, promoted Corporal; Chas. P. Fairbanks,

Henry Finken, killed in action; Albert H. Forbes, Elam T. Goodrich, promoted Captain; George C. Gear, John B. Gear, Francis W. Gray, Patrick J. Gibney, Albert P. Green, Robert D. Greenfield, Alfred F. Griswold, died at Salisbury, N. C.; William Hagadon, Timothy E. Hawley, Thomas J. Huffstidler, Heber S. Ives, promoted Second Lieutenant Fifteenth; Nathaniel C. Jonas, Henry W. L. Keach, died; George W. Lane, Chas. H. Lewis, promoted Corporal, died of wounds; Benjamin C. Mallory, Luther R. Matthews, promoted Corporal; John L. Merriam, promoted Captain; Augustus W. Morse, wounded two times; Frank H. Parker, Frederick H. Parker, promoted Sergeant; Henry G. Parker, wounded two times; John A. Parker, Henry H. Parsons, promoted Corporal; Warren M. Parsons, promoted Corporal; Edward E. Pelton, wounded; John A. Phelps, Daniel R. Pruden, Alonzo I. Richards, killed in action; Willis B. Richmond, killed in action; Newton A. Roberts, Joseph A. Root, wounded; Stephen M. Russell, Simeon Santa, Emerson R. Stevens, Ellis M. Stevens, wounded; Oscar A. Sweetland, wounded; Elihu Talmadge, drowned; Myron E. Terrill, Leonard K. Warren, Joseph H. Walker, died of wounds; Ambrose P. Watrous, Joseph G. Witham, promoted Sergeant; George S. Wilcox, wounded; Ogilvie Wright, died.

Joined as Recruits—Sylvanus Brenton, wounded; Hiram Botsford, Henry E. Davis, Augustus Fry, wounded; William H. Fisher, Alvin C. Green, Wilbur F. Hart, Sylvester Lane, Moses Lousell, William M. Pratt, promoted Lieutenant Colonel; Wilbur Range, Edwin E. Westover, died; Francis Wallace.

Company B, 9th Regiment.

This company, composed of Irish citizens, was organized in September, 1861, and assigned to the 9th Regiment as Co. B. It left the state November 4th for Lowell, Mass., and from there for Ship Island, Mississippi Sound. It served with credit in the Department of the Gulf until 1864 when, after a veteran furlough, it was sent to Bermuda Hundred, and in August, 1864, to Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley and took active part in the battle of Cedar Creek; later, it was for a time at Savanaah, Ga., and was mustered out August 3rd, 1865. Though not entirely, its membership was largely from Meriden.

ROSTER OF MERIDEN MEN.

Captain—Patrick Garvey.

Sergeant—John Duffey.

Corporals—Michael Reynolds, James Butler, Malachi Hackett, Edward Riley, James Morrissey.

Musician—Patrick Cain, died.

Privates—Andrew Anderson, Patrick Bohen, Jr., John Burke, Patrick Burke, wounded; Andrew Carlin, died; John Carroll, John Cassidy, James Crevy, James Donohue, died; James Doran, died; Thos. Farrell, John Ferris, died; John Frawley, Patrick Green, died; Joseph Harrington, died; Thomas Harvey, died; John Hazlett, Michael Hughes, Patrick Hughes, James Kelley, John L. McKay, deserted; Michael Magee, died; Michael Molloy, died; Thomas McCormick, John Murphy, Luke Quinn, died; Edward Rhatizan, promoted Corporal; Thomas Roach, Daniel Ryan, Thomas Waldron, died.

Joined as Recruits—Patrick Craig, William Casheen, Joseph Cassidy, Co. F; John C. Coogan, not assigned; James Morrissey, Frank McGee, Co. D.

Companies A and F, 15th Regiment

Two companies were organized during the month of August, 1862, and were assigned to the Fifteenth "Lyon" regiment as Companies A and

F. While in camp August 25th on behalf of the ladies of Meriden, who were represented by Misses Helen Bradley and Mary Brooks, Hon. O. H. Platt presented them with a beautiful silk flag with a most eloquent address. Col. Wright, in behalf of the regiment, made a feeling and patriotic response. Afterwards, Col. Wright was presented with a noble black stallion, the gift of his personal friends. Hon. Charles Parker presented the horse in behalf of the donors. Col. Wright responded and closed his remarks, saying "I make no pledges in return, of what I shall do. I simply say, I mean to do my duty, and I pray God will give me courage and nerve to do that duty well."

The regiment left for Washington August 28th and was stationed for a time at Long Bridge, Va. It participated in the battle of Fredericksburg, the Siege of Suffolk, Va., by Longstreet, and in minor affairs in North Carolina. It was the provost guard at New Berne, N. C., at the time of the great epidemic of yellow fever in 1864 and many died of that disease. In the actions before Kingston, March 8th to 11th, 1865, it suffered severe loss and a considerable part of the regiment were taken prisoners.

The regiment was mustered out at New Berne, N. C., June 27th, and arrived at New Haven July 4th, 1865.

ROSTER OF MERIDEN MEN.

COLONEL—Dexter R. Wright, resigned.

CHAPLAIN—D. Henry Miller, resigned.

SERGEANT-MAJOR—Julius B. Bissell, promoted First Lieutenant.

COMMISSARY SERGEANT—Elisha S. Curtis.

COMPANY A.

CAPTAIN—Julius Bassett, killed in action.

FIRST LIEUTENANT—Marshall C. Augur, died.

SECOND LIEUTENANT—George C. Merriam, promoted Captain 8th.

SERGEANTS—Philip C. Rand, promoted First Lieutenant and Adjutant; Gilbert I. Goodyear, Joseph Dainton, John B. Willett, promoted Captain 14th U. S. C. I.; Geo. W. Flint.

CORPORALS—Geo. N. Bailey, killed in action; Levi B. Curtis, promoted Sergeant; Geo. W. Allen, promoted Captain 29th; Thomas J. Symonds, Geo. Harwood, died in Andersonville; Wm. H. Catlin, Benj. R. Sherman, died; Tiomthy C. Root.

MUSICIANS—Otis S. Kelsey, Norris S. Burnett.

WAGONER—George W. Quinn.

PRIVATES—William H. Allen, Eugene Atwood, Michael Augur, Julius Augur, John P. Butler, Lyman P. Butler, Chas. H. Bartlett, Thomas Brooks, died; Chas. F. Beckley, Daniel J. Clark, Albert Clark, Frederick H. Carter, Richard Crosby, Henry H. Church, John Dainton, Thomas H. Day, deserted; Albert Dickinson, James W. Derby, promoted Corporal; Nathan Darling, promoted Corporal; James S. Ely, died; James O. Fisk, Frederick Foley, Horace F. Farnsworth, Alfred T. Finch, promoted Corporal; James M. Ford, died, Florence, S. C.; John Ferns, Franklin F. Field, promoted Corporal; Wilbur C. Fowler, Nathan G. Fenner, Delison B. Foote, David Grobel, Charles F. Green, wounded; John H. Griswold, James Greenland, wounded; Frederick M. Huntington, promoted Sergeant; Mortimer Hamblin, Theodore Hayden, William Hughes, Franklin Harrison, Andrew B. Hitchcock, died; James H. Howard, Albert S. Hotchkiss, Bunting Johnson, George F. Johnson, Charles A. Justin, John Keefe, Mark Kilbride, died; Frank E. Little, promoted First Lieutenant, 107 U. S. C. I.; Jefferson

Lawrence, Oscar E. Larkin, promoted Sergeant; Stephen M. Millard, Eckford I. Morse, John Maltby, Felix McCabe, wounded; Owen Mackay, Robert M. Murdock, George L. Miner, William E. Oldham, John W. Oughton, Aaron J. Pratt, promoted Corporal, died; James B. Parker, wounded, died; Joseph J. Quinn, John S. Quinn, Joshua B. Rice, Andrew J. Rummell, Robert Robinson, Henry W. Richmond, Reuben Root, Willis Redfield, died; J. George L. Roberts, died; James E. Stevens, Laban A. Smith, appointed Hospital Steward; Julius Shepard, Frank P. Talmadge, died; Madison A. Treat, James C. Welch, Henry Warnock, wounded; Edmund P. Welch, wounded; Elbridge Wright, promoted Corporal, wounded; Samuel Whittlesey, promoted Corporal; Henry B. Wood, Michael York.

Recruits for Co. A—Theodore T. Butler, Frederick Brant, Thomas B. Hawkins, Lewis Lawrence, Frederick E. Quinn, Edward J. Steele.

Company F.

Captain—Allen W. Harvey, resigned.

First Lieutenant—Reuben Waterman, promoted Captain.

Second Lieutenant—Wm. W. Thompson, promoted First Lieutenant, died.

Sergeants—Henry B. Levi, promoted Second Lieutenant, died; Lyman H. Hall, John Guinang, Charles F. Harwood, promoted Second Lieutenant; William H. Snow.

Corporals—Theron Scott, Chas. C. Whitney, promoted Sergeant; Henry H. Wright, promoted Sergeant; Henry J. Church, David E. Dunham, Hezekiah W. Hale, Frederick Doolittle, Frederick A. Higby.

Musicians—Jonas P. Curtis, John R. Sabins.

Wagoner—Alvin Kenney, died.

Privates—William A. Atwood, Henry B. Andrews, Henry G. Atkins, Geo. W. Averist, Francis P. Baker, promoted Corporal, killed; James R. Baker, died; Patrick Bowen, Theodore F. Bailey, Oscar M. Bailey, died; Hubbard C. Barrell, Samuel I. Bartholomew, James O'Brien, Noah E. Baldwin, Phineas P. Bradley, Lyman A. Beach, died; Jacob W. Brown, Henry B. Blakeslee, James Cunningham, Alvah J. Cook, died; Asa S. Cowdry, deserted; Lucius W. Curtis, promoted Corporal; John Camel, Philip E. Chapin, promoted Second Lieutenant, 2nd Artillery; Clarence Carpenter, Franklin S. Carpenter, died; Edward C. Carpenter, Daniel Copperthwait, Geo. Couch, Daniel Crowley, died; Abraham Dunn, deserted; Patrick Duffy, John N. Davis, died; John Finnegan, Michael Fitzpatrick, William Ferry, William F. Fay, Cord Finken, Jesse W. Griswold, Robert D. Greenfield, Alonzo H. Gallup, Sylvanus A. Hull, died; Andrew Hazlitt, Levi Hotchkiss, John A. Harvey, promoted Corporal; James Judge, Edwin A. Kenney, promoted Sergeant; Asa Kirtland, George H. Lewis, died; Handford B. Lindley, promoted Corporal, Leverett Lindley, Chas. F. Lindsley, promoted Quartermaster Sergeant; William H. Minchin, promoted Corporal; James B. Marvin, William McGlynn, John O. Marvel, John Neace, Giles I. Newton, Elisha M. Pomeroy, Jr., promoted Corporal; Thomas Pillion, Henry Pearson, William W. Pinks, Edwin C. Pinks, Henry D. Pardew, promoted Corporal; Patrick Reynolds, Benjamin F. Ross, Patrick Roby, Stephen G. Rockwell, Joseph Rancorn, died; Samuel G. Simpson, Washington Smith, James Smith, deserted; William R. Sheppard, Heinrick E. C. Tittel, Wm. A. Tompkins, Charles H. Taylor, George C. Williams, James H. Williams, Selden C. Williams, Hubert F. Wightman, Robert F. Webster, Noah J. Welton, Chauncey P. Welton, Benj. W. Warner, Emerson J. Wolcott.

Recruits for Co. F—Frederick A. Byxby, James C. Butler, Frederick W. Beach, Eugene E. Bridgeman, Daniel W. Easton, John Ford, died; Wm. G. Gallager, Alois Loeffler, Elliot Upson, James T. Carter, Edwin C. Clark, William J. Fergurson,

Frank O. Gladwin, Joseph Grant, Harlow R. Isbell, Reuben W. Lowell, Wallace A. Miles, Chas. A. Symonds, Henry Sedgwick, Edward J. Steele.

Company G, 27th Regiment.

This company was enlisted for nine months and assigned to the 27th Regiment as Company G. It was only partly composed of Meriden men. They were mustered into the United States service October 22nd, 1862, and left for Washington, being assigned to the Army of the Potomac.

They were actively engaged at the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. They were mustered out of service July 27th, 1863, on expiration of their term of service.

ROSTER OF MERIDEN MEN.

Major—Theodore Byxbee.

Second Lieutenant—Frank B. Wright.

Commissary Sergeant—John H. Steadman.

Sergeants—George W. Taylor.

Corporals—Wm. H. Stannis, wounded; Collins Upson, Albert J. Puffer, George L. Seymour, Gilbert Upson.

Musician—Thomas W. Crawford.

Wagoner—James M. Warner,

MERIDEN MEN IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, OMITTING SUBSTITUTES WHO DESERTED.

Atkinson, Johnson, Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Atkinson, Johnson, Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Atkins, William, Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Aichler, Peter, 1st, Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Aichler, Peter, 2nd, Corporal, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Aichler, John M., Corporal, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Adams, Arthur, Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Anderson, Andrew, Private, Co. K, 14th Conn., Infantry, died in Andersonville.

Allen, George W., Captain, Co. E, 29th, Conn. Infantry.

Atkinson, John D., Private, Co. D, 5th Conn. Infantry, deserted.

Baldwin, Truman, Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Cavalry, captured, died.

Bates, Robert H., Private, Co. F, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Bradley, Elisha K., Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Butler, Henry W., Private, Co. A, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Beebe, Newell S., Corporal, Co. A, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Birge, Lewis, Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Bullus, Thomas, Corporal, Co. D, 2nd Conn. Artillery.

Button, Lucien, Private, Co. K, 2nd Conn. Artillery, killed in action.

Bond, Patrick S., Private, Co. F, 5th Conn. Infantry.

Becker Henry, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Bauer, Conrad, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Behm, August, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Berker, Conrad, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Belden, Marshall, Private, Co. A, 7th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.

Brooks, William P., Private, Co. F, 7th Conn. Infantry.

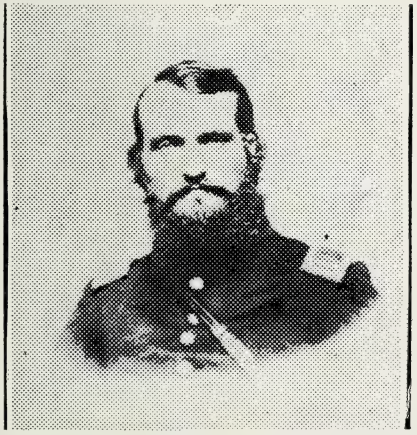
Barrett, John, Private, Co. C, 8th Conn. Infantry.

Barnard, Theodore C., Private, Co. I, 8th Conn. Infantry.

Bates, John, Corporal, Co. E, 10th Conn. Infantry.

Baker, Arthur A., Private, Co. F, 11th Conn. Infantry, died.
Brooks, John C., Private, Co. C, 12th Conn. Infantry.
Butler, Joseph, Private, Co. H, 14th Conn. Infantry.
Brown, Samuel R., Private, Co. E, 29th Conn. Infantry.
Brinsmaid, Willis, Private, Co. F, 29th Conn. Infantry.
Bullock, George E., Harland's Brigade Band.
Benham, Henry W., Brevet-Major, General U. S. Army.
Brooks, William P., Private, Co. A, 10th U. S. Infantry.
Butler, John F., Landsman, U. S. Navy.
Bristol, George, Private, Co A, 31st Mass. Infantry.
Bond, Patrick, Private, Co. F, 1st Conn. Artillery, deserted.
Barnard, George I., Private, Co. I, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Burns, Thomas, Private, Co. C, 13th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.
Chapman, John, Quartermaster Sergeant, 1st Conn. Light Battery.
Cochran, William H., Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Crossman, Edward O., Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Catlin, Horace S., Private, Co. H, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Cahill, John, Private, Co. I, 1st Conn Artillery, deserted.
Cassidy, William, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery, died.
Caraher, James, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Clark, Kelsey D, Private, Co. D, 2nd Conn. Artillery, wounded, deserted.
Cragie, Patrick, Private, Co. F, 5th Conn. Infantry.
Canary, Michael, Private, Co. G, 5th Conn. Infantry, deserted.
Catlin, Chas. D., Private, Co. I, 5th Conn. Infantry.
Collins, Edward F., Private, Co. F, 6th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.
Clark, Russell N., Wagoner, Co. B, 7th Conn. Infantry.
Cook, James, Private, Co. I, 7th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.
Clark, William, Private, Co. A, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Cassidy, Joseph, Private, Co. F, 9th Conn. Infantry.
Coogan, John C., Private, unassigned.
Cummings, John, Private, Co. E, 2d Conn. Artillery, died.
Clapp, Anson D., Private, Co. F, 2d Conn. Artillery.
Clark, William A., Musician, Co. I, 2d Conn. Artillery.
Carney, John, Private, Co. I, 15th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.
Combs, William C., Corporal, Co. G, 17th Conn. Infantry.
Coleman Jeremiah, Private, Co. F, 20th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Coy, Granville, Private, Co. D, 30th Conn. Infantry, missing in action.
Coy, Henry, Harland's Brigade Band.
Cox, David, Corporal, Co. A, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Davis Randolph, Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died.
Derragh, Thomas, Corporal, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Duff, Patrick, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery, killed.
Dixon, John, Private, Co. E, 8th Conn. Infantry, died.
Duerest, Paul, Private, Co. F, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Dale, Benj. B., Harland's Brigade Band.
Dennis, Alfred, Private, Co. G, 8th Conn. Infantry, deserted.
Emmons, Gilbert S., Sergeant, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Ernest, Paulus, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Eaton, Jacob, Chaplain, 7th Conn. Infantry.
Emanuel, Salvador, Private, Co. A, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Eggleston, Elijah, Private, Co. G, 14th Conn. Infantry.

Ellis, George, Private, Co. K, 14th Conn. Infantry.
Felix, Augustus, Private, Co. B, 1st Squadron Cavalry.
Foster, Samuel H., Com. Sergeant M, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Frances, George, Private, Co. G, 13th Conn. Infantry, died.
Fordham, Theodore P., Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Foster, William, Private, Co. K, 14th Conn. Infantry, died in Richmond.
Flower, Artemas, Private, Co. K, 20th Conn. Infantry.



CHAPLAIN JACOB EATON.

Fowler, Isaiah, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Fowler, Abel C., Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Fitzgerald, William, Private, Co. I, 2nd Conn. Artillery, killed in action.
Farrell, Owen, Private, Co. I, 7th Conn. Infantry.
Frazier, Joseph, Private, Co. I, 7th Conn. Infantry.
Fox, John, Private, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Greenfield, Robert, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Grow, Henry, Sergeant, First Light Battery.
Guptil, Jacob T., Private, 1st Light Battery.
Griffin, Julian A., Private, Co. A, 1st Conn. Artillery, died.
Grimes, Michael, Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Gangloff, Charles, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Glaessner, Frederick, Corporal, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Gagion, John, Private, Co. A, 7th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Gode, William, Private, Co. K, 7th Conn. Infantry.
Galligan, Thomas, Private, Co. F, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Goodrich, Alfred N., Private, Co. I, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Giesecki, William, Sergeant, Co. C, 11th Conn. Infantry.
Gillon, Charles, Private, Co. I, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded, deserted.
Griswold, Hobart H., Private, Co. H, 1st U. S. Infantry.
Hogan, Patrick, Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Hall, William G., Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died in Andersonville.
Hayden, Hector C., Sergeant, Co. M, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Hays, John, Private, unassigned.
Harvey, William H., Private, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Hayes, Patrick, Private, Co. H, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Hawes, Charles A., Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery, wounded.
Holloran, Simeon, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Haggerty, Thomas, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Haggerty, William H., Private, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery, wounded.
Horsefall, George H., Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Higbee, Charles C., Private, Co. D, 5th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Haas, Jacob, Private, Co. C, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Handell, Christian, Sergeant, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Hess, Frederick, Musician, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Haaga, Gottleib, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Heckler, Christian, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Hotchkiss, Seth W., Private, Co. A, 7th Conn. Infantry, died.
Hardy, John, Private, Co. A, 8th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Hinman, John S., Private, Co. C, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Holden, Stephen L., Private, Co. D, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Hyde, Phineas, Private, Co. I, 8th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Hart, Francis J., Private, Co. C, 13th Conn. Infantry, died.
Homan, Henry H., Private, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery, wounded.
Hugal, John, Private, Co. D, 14th Conn. Infantry.
Hughes, Edward, Private, Co. D, 14th Conn. Infantry, died in Andersonville.
Hinkey, Julius, Private, Co. H, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Holden, James, Private, Co. C, 15th Conn. Infantry, wounded.
Holmes, Joseph W., Private Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Hale, Cutler R., Private, Co. H, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Hildreth, Edgar A., Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery, died.
Hoffman, Joseph, Private, Co. B, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Hall, Aruna, Private, Co. D, 10th Conn. Infantry.
Ives, John W., Private, Co. C, 15th Conn. Infantry.
Jameson, Edward S., Quartermaster Sergeant, Co. M, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died in Andersonville.
Johnson, Chauncey W., Private, unassigned, deserted.
Kelly, Francis, Farrier, Co. H, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died.
Knight, Oscar F., Private, Co. A, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Kelsey, Henry C., Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.
Kron, Jacob, Corporal, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Kern, John, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, died.
Kohlenberg, Christian, Private, Co. D, 7th Conn. Infantry, died in Andersonville.
Kudewind, Adolph, Private, Co. C, 10th Conn. Infantry.
Knowlton, George H., Private, Co. K, 15th Conn. Infantry.
Kanel, John, Private, Co. D, 16th Conn. Infantry.
Knowles, James M., Second Lieutenant, Co. I, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Kelly, John, Private, Co. G, 8th Conn. Infantry.
Link, Gottleib, Corporal, Co. A, 1st Squadron Cavalry.
Lewis, Charles N., Quartermaster Sergeant, Co. K, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Laurence, Henry S., Corporal, 1st Light Battery.
Link, Casper, Corporal, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.
Lathrop, Henry A., Private, Co. I, 8th Conn. Infantry, died.
Leonard, William, Private, Co. H, 14th Conn. Infantry, died in Andersonville.
Lane, Oscar B., Harland's Brigade Band.
Lane, Josiah W., Harland's Brigade Band.
Lane, Theo. F., Harland's Brigade Band.
Leonard, Levi, Sergeant, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Lewis, James B., Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry.
Lewis, Charles, Corporal, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry, wounded.
Locke, James H., Private, 1st Light Battery.
Lamphear, Harrison, U. S. Navy, died.
Lamphere, Irving, Musician, Co. E, 14th Conn. Infantry.
Marsh, George, Corporal, Co. A, 1st Squadron Cavalry. „

Murphy, Patrick, Farrier, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Madden, James, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Miller, Charles D., Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Murray, Thomas, Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Miller, Henry W., Private, Co. H, 2nd Conn. Artillery.

Matthews, William S., Musician, 5th Conn. Infantry.

Mackie, John, Musician, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Machmeyer, Edward, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, died.

Mayer, Jacob, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, died.

Mayer, Frederick, 2nd, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Morrison, Edward, Private, Co. C, 8th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.

Moenkmeyer, Christian, Private, Co. C, 11th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Mecorney, Charles R., Private, Co. B, 12th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.

Mahone, Thomas, Private, Co. D, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Mackey, Kegan, Private, Co. H, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Meagher, Alexander, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery, deserted.

Merriam, John, Musician, Co. B, 12th Conn. Infantry.

McCormack, John, U. S. Navy.

McGee, Frank, Private, Co. D, 9th Conn. Infantry.

McGlenn, Patrick, Private, Co. D, 10th Conn. Infantry.

McPartlan, Charles, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

McParteen, Charles, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery, killed in action.

McGovern, Michael, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Newcomb, Jeremiah, Private, Co. I, 2nd Conn. Artillery, wounded.

Newton, Isaac R., Musician, Co. A, 10th Conn. Infantry.

Osborne, John, Private, Co. I, 15th Conn. Infantry.

O'Brien, John, Private, Co. D, 14th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.

Perkins, Frederick J., Private, Co. D, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Plumb, Henry A., Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died of wounds.

Pearson, William, Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Parker, William H., Corporal, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Pratt, Robert R., Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Parkinson, Anthony, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Parker, Thomas, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Potter, Judson A., Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Pfeifer, George, Corporal, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Plumb, William W., Sergeant, Co. F, 7th Conn. Infantry.

Peterson, William H., Private, Co. E, 8th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.

Plunkett, John, Private, Co. E, 8th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Pendleton, William, Private, Co. C, 14th Conn. Infantry, died in Andersonville.

Pratt, Eugene H., Musician, 8th Conn. Infantry.

Quinn, Felix, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Rich, Henry, Corporal, 1st Light Battery.

Reynolds, James H., Private, 1st Light Battery, wounded.

Roly, Patrick, Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Reynolds, Gardner, Second Lieutenant, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Raymond, Albert C., First Lieutenant, Co. F, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Ryan, James, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Richardson, William W., Private, Co. D, 2nd Conn. Artillery, died.

Riley, James H., Private, Co. F, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Robinson, Lorenzo, Private, Co. F, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Rache, Alexander, Private, Co. H, 6th Infantry.

Rebstock, William, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Rebstock, John, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Roselius, Louis, Private Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Robinson, William J., Private, Co. B, 7th Conn. Infantry.

Rogers, Emerson, Musician, Co. D, 7th Conn. Infantry.

Rosa, Lewis, Private, Co. E, 8th Conn. Infantry.

Riley, Lawrence, Private, Co. E, 8th Conn. Infantry, killed in action.

Ransom, John, Private, Co. H, 10th Conn. Infantry.

Remington, Thomas F., Private, Co. K, 11th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.

Riggs, Ranford, Private, Co. B, 14th Conn. Infantry.

Ryman, Thomas, Corporal, Co. C, 14th Conn. Infantry.

Richardson, Robert, Private, Co. A, 30th Conn. Infantry.

Rosenberg, Simeon C., Harland's Brigade Band.

Ryder, John W., Private, 14th U. S. Infantry.

Rogers, Wilbur F., Sergeant, Co. F, 4th N. Y. Infantry.

Robinson, Frederick S., Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Rogers, Matthew, Private, Co. G, 1st, Conn. Artillery.

Smith, Theophilus, Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Somers, Augustus, Private, Co. A, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Shields, Patrick, Private, 1st Light Battery.

Shelton, Charles F., Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Smith, Lewis, Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Sloane, James R., Quartermaster Sergeant, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Sloane, George F., Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Stutter, John, Private, Co. K, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Stoddard, William L., Private, Co. D, Second Conn. Artillery, wounded.

Skehon, Dennis, Private, Co. C, 5th Conn. Infantry.

Schaupp, Conrad, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry.

Schutt, August, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Sellew, Oliver D., Sergeant, Co. A, 7th Conn. Infantry, wounded, died Florence, S. C.

Sanderson, Frederick, Private, Co. A, 7th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Styles, Burrett, Private, Co. A, 14th Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Smith, Charles, Private, Co. E, 29th Conn. Infantry.

Smith, Charles T., Private, Co. C, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Sanford, Joseph W., Private, 1st Light Battery.

Smith, Thomas, Private, Co. G, 1st Conn. Artillery, deserted

Snyder, James, Private, Co. I, 13th Conn. Infantry.

Sala, Antoine, Private, Co. I, 15th Conn. Infantry.

Tanner, William L., Private, Co. B, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Tennant, Clinton Y., Corporal, Co. F, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Thrall, William H., Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Turner, Cornelius, Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Tinch, Frank, Musician, Co. A, 8th Conn. Infantry, died.

Tuttle, Hezekiah, Private, 1st Light Battery.

Todd, Edmund B., Private, 3rd Light Battery.

Thrall, Alfred, Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Thrall, John E., Private, Co. E, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Vandervleit, Cornelius, Private, Co. D, 14th Conn. Infantry.

Warriner, Edwin, Chaplain, 1st Conn. Cavalry.

Wood, George H., Private, Co. D, 1st Conn. Cavalry, died.

Werin, John C., Private, Co. I, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Wells Marcellus, Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Worstley, Thomas R., Second Lieutenant, 16th Conn. Infantry.

Walsh, Michael, Private, Co. C, 5th Conn. Infantry.

Welch, John, Private, Co. G, 5th Conn. Infantry.

Wright, William, Private, Co. B, 8th Conn. Infantry, died of wounds.

Welch, Patrick, 2nd, Private, Co. F, 8th Conn. Infantry, wounded, died Salisbury, N. C.

Williams, Thomas, Private, Co. K, 29th Conn. Infantry.

Welch, Frank M., First Lieutenant, 54th Mass. Infantry.

White, Henry H., Private, Co. G, 1st Oregon Cavalry.

Warner, Levi J., Private, Co. G, 1st Light Battery.

Wells, John H., Private, Co. L, 1st Conn. Artillery.

Warner, Irwin E., Private, Co. I, 2nd Conn. Artillery, deserted.

Warner, Melvin R., Private, Co. I, 2nd Conn. Infantry, wounded.

Zimmerman, Casper, Private, Co. H, 6th Conn. Artillery, deserted.

Note—There are undoubtedly others who served in the Navy but it has not been possible to ascertain their names.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FROM MERIDEN.

General—Henry W. Benham, Brevet Major General U. S. Army.

Colonels—Seager S. Atwell, 7th Conn. Infantry; Charles L. Upham, 15th Conn. Infantry; Dexter R. Wright, 15th Conn. Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonels—Wm. M. Pratt, 8th Conn. Infantry.

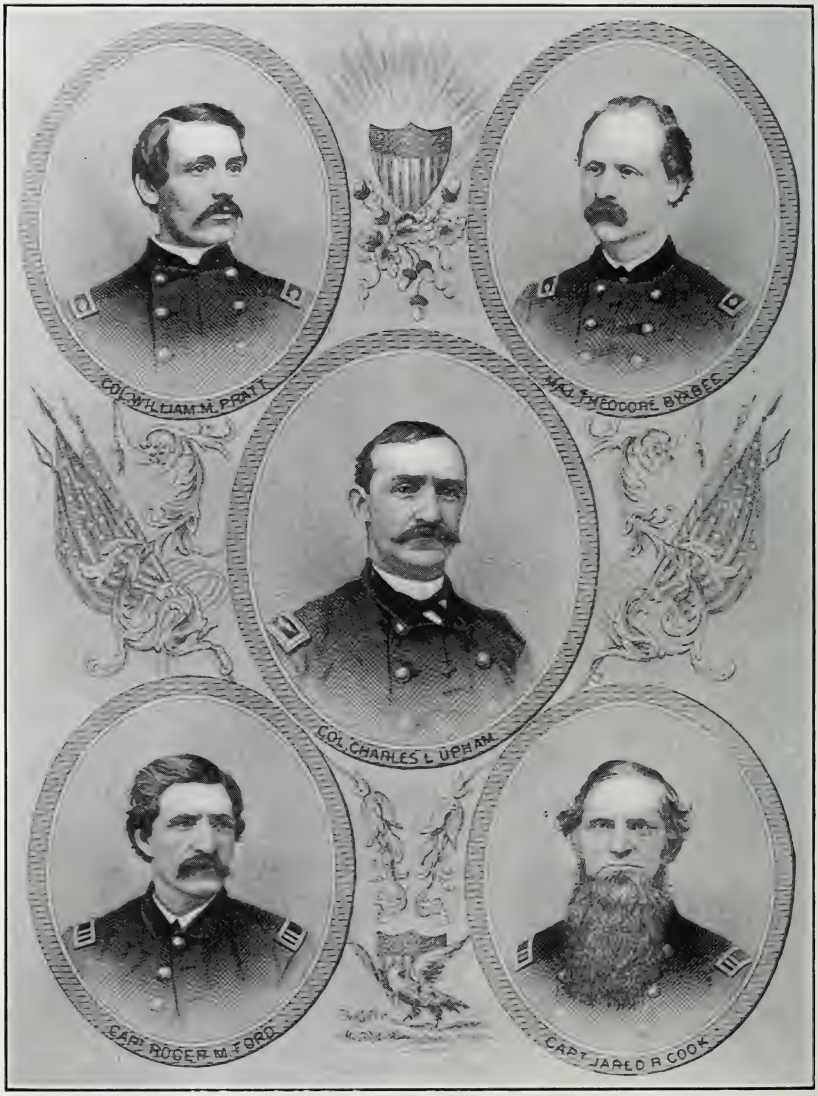
Majors—Theodore Byxbee, 27th Conn. Infantry; Oliver S. Sanford, 7th Conn. Infantry.

Chaplains—Charles Dixon, 16th Conn. Infantry, Jacob Eaton, 7th Conn. Infantry; D. Henry Miller, 15th Conn. Infantry.

Captains—George W. Allen, 29th Conn. Infantry; Julius Bassett, 15th Conn. Infantry; Jared R. Cook, 3rd Conn. Infantry; Roger M. Ford, 8th Conn. Infantry; Elam T. Goodrich, 8th Conn. Infantry; Patrick Garvey, 9th Conn. Infantry; Allen W. Harvey, 15th Conn. Infantry; N. P. Ives, Assistant Quartermaster; Geo. C. Merriam, 8th Conn. Infantry; John L. Merriam, 8th Conn. Infantry; Ira B. Smith, 7th Conn. Infantry; Reuben Waterman, 15th Conn. Infantry; John B. Willett, 14th U. S. C. Artillery; George W. Wilson, 1st Conn. Infantry.

First Lieutenants—Marshall C. Augur, 15th Conn. Infantry; Julius B. Bissell, 15th Conn. Infantry; Albert T. Booth, 8th Conn. Infantry; Levi C. Bingham, 15th Conn. Infantry; C. Lewis Bull, 7th Conn. Infantry; Wallace T. Cloud, 8th Conn. Infantry; Jacob Eaton, 8th Conn. Infantry; George W. Farnham, 8th Conn. Infantry; Ossian L. Hatch, 7th Conn. Infantry; Edwin A. Kenney, 14th U. S. C. Artillery; Frank E. Little, 107th U. S. C. Infantry; Dennis O'Brien, 7th Conn. Infantry; Philip C. Rand, 15th Conn. Infantry; Albert C. Raymond, 1st Conn. Artillery; William W. Thompson, 15th Conn. Infantry; Frank M. Welch, 54th Mass. Infantry.

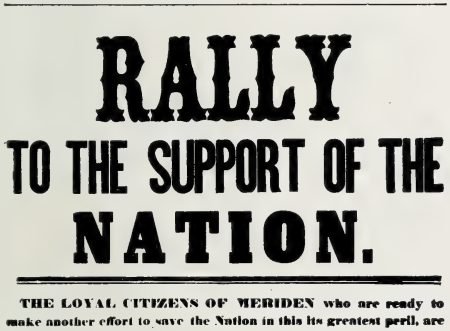
Second Lieutenants—Wm. H. Augur, 7th Conn. Infantry; William P. Brooks, 29th Conn. Infantry; Asa S. Cowdry, 3rd Conn. Infantry; Milo J. Goodrich, 8th Conn. Infantry; Charles F. Harwood, 15th Conn. Infantry; Erwin D. Hall, 8th Conn. Infantry; Heber S. Ives, 15th Conn. Infantry; William H. Johnson, 8th Conn. Infantry; James M. Knowles, 1st Conn. Cav-



Reproduced from Davis' History of Meriden.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FROM MERIDEN.

alry; Henry B. Levi, 15th Conn. Infantry; David T Lyon, 7th Conn. Infantry; Edmund A. Parker, 8th Conn. Infantry; Henry H. Pierce, 7th Conn. Infantry; Gardner Reynolds, 1st Conn. Artillery; George M. Stevens, 8th Conn. Infantry; George E. Sellew, 6th U. S. C. Infantry; John H. Vorra, 8th Conn. Infantry; Frank B. Wright, 27th Conn. Infantry; Thomas Worstley, 16th Conn. Infantry.



RALLY

TO THE SUPPORT OF THE NATION.

THE LOYAL CITIZENS OF MERIDEN who are ready to make another effort to save the Nation in this its greatest peril, are requested to meet at the

TOWN HOUSE, ON THURSDAY EVENING,

JULY 10th, 1862, at 7 1-2 o'clock, to consult upon measures relating to the PUBLIC SAFETY. All hands to the rescue. The Government calls loudly for aid, and Meriden must respond nobly now in MEN and MEANS, as she has done in the past.

HON. SENATOR DIXON, CYRUS NORTHRUP, ESQ.,

and other distinguished Speakers will be present to address the meeting.

Hon. O. H. PLATT, JAMES S. BROOKS, O. B. ARNOLD, ISAAC C. LEWIS, CHARLES PARKER, EDMUND PARKER,

Meriden, July 9th, 1862.

From the New Haven Palladium of July 11th, 1862.

WAR MEETING IN MERIDEN.

The meeting in Meriden last evening was an honor to the town, and full of hope and promise for the Union cause. Amid the roar of cannon and the roll of drums, the people came together to consult for their country.

When we reached the Town Hall at an early hour, we found a large audience already assembled and in a few minutes every seat was filled, and the aisles were packed from the door to the platform.

The meeting was organized by appointing Judge James S. Brooks chairman and a large number of Vice-Presidents and Secretaries.

Speeches were made by Judge Brooks, Lieutenant Colonel D. R. Wright, Hon. John B. Wright, of the Senate, Hon. O. H. Platt and Cyrus Northrup.

Resolutions were reported by a committee that Meriden will furnish all the men and money that are required of her to put down the rebellion; that the selectmen be requested to call a town meeting to vote $10 bounty to volunteers, and appointing a large committee to co-operate with a similar one in New Haven in encouraging enlistments.

When the question upon the passage of the resolutions was put, one mighty "aye" rose up from every part of the hall and not a single "no" was heard. Traitors do not thrive in Meriden.

At 10 o'clock, when we left, the meeting was still in progress and volunteers were coming forward from the audience.

The meeting was not a noisy one, but it was deeply earnest and thoughtful. Men had met to consult preparatory to action. Already the work of enlistment has begun. Ten or twelve of the best young men in Meriden enlisted yesterday and it is expected that the company now forming under Capt. Bassett will soon be full.

Meriden has already sent over four hundred men to the war. Her quota for the new enlistments will be about one hundred and twenty-five. There is no doubt but that they will be furnished and more if required."

ANOTHER WAR MEETING.

Tuesday, August 12th, 1862, the Town Hall was packed with an audience embracing all classes of society and of all parties interested in the prosecution of the war. Judge James S. Brooks presided and the volunteers of the new company now being raised, were elected Vice-Presidents. Addresses were made by Hon. O. H. Platt, Rev. D. Henry Miller, H. Clay Trumbull and others.

The meeting was a great success. Great disappointment was felt in consequence of the absence of Col. Wright, who was detained with his regiment in New Haven.

The expression of the meeting was that there shall be no necessity for a draft in Meriden.

Another War Meeting was assembled at the Town Hall Friday evening, December 18th, 1863, to take into consideration some method of filling Meriden's quota with volunteers.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of President Dr. E. W. Hatch, Vice-Presidents Eli Butler, Bela Carter, Capt. Jared R. Cook and Captain Luther G. Riggs, Secretary George W. Lyon.

Stirring and patriotic speeches were made by Col. George P. Bissell, Hon. O. H. Platt and Rev. Jacob Eaton.

A committee of five, consisting of Hon. O. H. Platt, Dr. E. W. Hatch, I. C. Lewis, Charles Parker, and Rev. Jacob Eaton were appointed to take into consideration some means for filling the quota of the town by enlistment.

The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday evening, the 22nd.

THE ADJOURNED MEETING.

The adjourned meeting was called to order by the President and the following were appointed additional Vice-Presidents—Chas. Parker, General Walter Booth, O. S. Williams, Lieutenant L. E. Webb, Lieutenant O. L. Hatch, Captain Hobart Smith, Lieutenant J. B. Bissell, Edwin H. Butler, Sergeant Wells.

O. H. Platt, chairman of the committee, appointed at the previous meeting, made report and submitted the following resolution which was passed unanimously:

Resolved, That a committee of nine be appointed by the chairman of this meeting to devise ways and means to obtain a sufficient number of volunteers to fill the quota of the Town of Meriden.

The chair subsequently announced the following gentlemen as comprising the committee:

Jared R. Cook, Isaac C. Lewis, Edmund Parker, Eli Butler, O. H. Platt, Wm. W. Lee, Bela Carter, Jacob Eaton and P. Hall.

A letter was read from Captain Atwell, of the Meriden Company, 7th Regiment, stating one-half of his com-

pany had re-enlisted for the war and that many others were about doing so.

Earnest and impressive speeches were made by Chaplain J. M. Morris of the 8th, Chaplain D. Henry Miller, of the 15th, and Sergeant Dickinson of the 11th.

August 19th, 1864, a meeting of those interested in filling the quota of Meriden under the last call for 500,000 men was held at the Institute rooms. The meeting was organized by electing Captain Jared R. Cook, chairman, and Captain Luther G. Riggs, secretary. The chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting to be to adopt measures for averting the impending draft and save the town the ignominy of conscription.

The following resolution was presented:

Resolved, That the selectmen of the Town of Meriden be requested to call a public meeting of the legal voters of said town, at the earliest day possible, for the purpose of reconsidering the vote of Thursday week, and extending the benefits of said vote to all persons who shall furnish an acceptable substitute to count on the quota of the town.

Pending its passage remarks were made by Wm. P. Morgan, Hiram Butler, Chas. Kingsley, Wm. A. Baldwin, J. C. Breckenridge, Chas. Parker and others.

The resolution was passed without a dissenting vote.

A committee of seven was appointed to prepare the business of the meeting for action. The committee chosen was Charles Parker, J. C. Breckenridge, Jared R. Cook, J. J. Woolley, Stephen S. Goodyear, Edward Miller.

They reported the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we raise the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, to be appropriated for the purpose of paying volunteers, or acceptable substitutes, to fill the quota of the Town of Meriden, to be paid in the same rates as by the town.

Resolved, That we lay a tax of ten dollars and upwards on every enrolled man in order to raise the above amount, said tax to be paid immediately.

Resolved, That we request the Town of Meriden, at the next town meeting, to swell the sum of fifteen thousand dollars to a sufficient amount to pay six hundred dollars to those men who enlist for three years.

Resolved, That a committee of one in each school district except the Corner district, be appointed to collect the amount subscribed by each individual.

Resolved, That the above committee report at an adjourned meeting to be held in the Institute room Monday evening, August 22nd.

The following persons were appointed collectors:

Corner district, Geo. W. Lyon, Jared R. Cook, S. S. Wilcox; Center district, Charles Kingsley; Hanover district, J. C. Breckenridge; North Center district, Stephen W. Goodyear; Stone School House district, Oliver Rice; Railroad district, James Tuttle; East Side district, N. F. Griswold;

Prattsville district, Thos. G. Hotchkiss; Farms district, S. E. Johnson; Southeast district, Levi B. Yale; Ives district, Julius Parker; Northeast district, Merritt Baldwin; Old Road district, W. W. Lyman.

August 22nd, 1864, pursuant to adjournment the meeting assembled at the Institute rooms. The Soliciting Committee reported there had thus far been subscribed $4,197.00. The following resolutions were passed:

Resolved, That in case we do not raise the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, that we divide the sum already raised or that shall be raised equally between those men who shall enlist or furnish an acceptable substitute, or who shall be drafted, provided they (the drafted men) have subscribed ten dollars or more to this fund.

Resolved, In order those entitled may be benefited, this money must be subscribed and paid prior to the next town meeting.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Voted, That three trustees be appointed to receive and disburse the funds subscribed, and that the following gentlemen be constituted such trustees, namely, J. C. Breckenridge, J. R. Cook, H. T. Wilcox.

Voted, To adjourn to meet Wednesday evening next.

August 24th, 1864, an adjourned meeting was held in the Institute rooms, J. R. Cook, chairman; L. G. Riggs, secretary. Mr. S. S. Wilcox stated for the honor of Meriden he would be one of seventy to volunteer and fill its quota. He produced an enlistment blank when the following persons signed their names: S. S. Wilcox, S. P. Stannard, Michael McGovern, E. H. Griswold.

Patriotic speeches were made by Rev. J. J. Woolley, Rev. E. M. Jerome, Hon. O. H. Platt, W. A. Baldwin, Hiram Butler, Geo. W. Lyon and others.

Voted, That a committee of four be appointed to solicit subscriptions of one hundred dollars for the purpose of making the bounty seven hundred dollars to each volunteer for three years, *provided* the quota is filled.

The following persons were appointed on this committee: Hiram Butler, J. J. Woolley, Jared R. Cook, William J. Ives.

The following persons each pledged themselves to pay one hundred dollars if the quota shouuld be filled: O. H. Platt, W. W. Lyman, Julius Merriam, Hiram Butler, George W. Lyon, Dr. John Tait.

Voted, That the resolution passed by the previous meeting, viz: "In order that those entitled may be benefited this money must be subscribed and paid prior to the next town meeting," be so amended as that subscriptions may be received till the fifth of September; *provided,* however, that all moneys now subscribed be paid as soon as demanded, and that all moneys hereafter subscribed be paid at the time of subscribing.

Voted, To adjourn to meet in this place Saturday evening, the 27th, at half-past 7 o'clock.

August 27th, 1864. Though not large in attendance, this proved one of the most earnest, enthusiastic and patriotic meetings of the campaign. After hearing reports from the various committees regarding the number of men already enlisted, eloquent and patriotic speeches were made by Rev. J. J. Woolley, Rev. J. H. Farnsworth, Hiram Butler, O. S. Williams and others.

Voted, That the Rev. J. J. Woolley and other speakers be invited to address this meeting on Friday evening next.

Voted, That Jared R. Cook be appointed a committee to invite and procure the attendance of the Yalesville Band at our next meeting.

Adjourned to meet Friday evening, September 2nd, at half past seven o'clock.

FAIR AND FESTIVAL.

CIRCULAR.

To the Citizens of Meriden:

The committee appointed to make arrangements for a Fair and Festival to be held at the Town Hall, for the benefit of soldiers and their families from Meriden, take this opportunity of commending the project to our citizens.

This town has sent her best and bravest sons to the war under the pledge, both implied and expressed, that their families should not want during their absence, and the soldiers themselves should be taken care of in sickness and, if disabled, should be cared for on their return to our midst. This pledge is a sacred obligation which should be performed in the spirit in which it was given. It will not do for us to

> "Keep the word of promise to the ear
> And break it to the heart."

We owe it to the brave men who are battling for our rights and liberties to raise such a fund as will relieve the wants of all soldiers and the families of all soldiers from this town.

To this end every citizen of Meriden is asked to contribute with a liberal hand to this Fair and Festival.

The manufacturers are asked to give their wares, the merchants their goods, the farmers their wood and their produce, and every man and woman in Meriden is asked to contribute according to their ability, for the benefit of this Festival. There is scarcely an article which cannot be made available, and turned into money.

The proceeds of the Fair will be placed in the hands of a liberal committee and faithfully applied to the objects indicated in this circular. The Festival will be held Wednesday evening, Thursday and Friday afternoon and evening, Dec. 30th and 31st, 1863, and January 1st, 1864. It is expected that such entertainments will be offered to the public as will make the

Note—We are unable to find any account of a meeting on Sept. 2nd, but do find a statement that Meriden's quota was filled and an excess of 29 men.

The Hartford Courant says Meriden "beats the world in furnishing soldiers."

occasion one of the most pleasant ever known in the town of Meriden.

In conclusion, the committee ask the citizens of Meriden to meet the demands made upon them in a spirit of generous liberality. The fund to be raised should be counted by thousands and not by hundreds.

Let us perform the promise we have made to the soldiers. Let us keep our plighted faith.

Committee—O. H. Platt, I. C. Lewis, E. W. Hatch, Eli Butler, John Ives.

Meriden, Dec. 24th, 1863.

The Fair was an eminent success. There were present each evening probably not less than seven hundred persons. The hall was tastefully decorated. There were tablets on which were painted in large black letters the names of local and national soldiers, our lamented dead and the names of battles in which Meriden soldiers had distinguished themselves. About the room were numerous booths representing tents, in which refreshments were served, and tables abundantly laden with tempting wares.

Thursday evening was devoted to tableaux, pantomimes and music by gentlemen from the Meriden Musical Association. Friday evening the young people enjoyed themselves with a grand dance. Saturday evening the articles unsold were disposed of to the highest bidder. The proceeds of the Fair netted about two thousand dollars.

FAIR AND FESTIVAL.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 13th, 14th and 15th, 1865, a great Fair and Festival was given in the Town Hall, jointly in behalf of the destitute families of the Meriden soldiers, and the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society. Arrangements were made on a most extensive scale and a large number of our most capable and energetic women and men constituted the committees.

Executive Committee—Mrs. P. J. Clark, Mrs. J. H. Farnsworth, Hon. O. H. Platt and Isaac C. Lewis.

Treasurer—Alden Clark.

The Festival was in every way a decided success. Many thanks and much credit was given Mrs. P. J. Clark and Hon. O. H. Platt, of the Executive Committee for the leading and active part taken by them. The Fair netted upwards of thirteen hundred dollars.

LADIES' SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY.

In February, 1864, the ladies of Meriden formed a Soldiers' Aid Society, their object being to incite the people of Meriden to more systematic and efficient effort in the cause for which they labor. This organization was an auxiliary to the New Haven branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

The officers were:

Directresses—Mrs. P. J. Clark, Mrs. J. H. Farnsworth.

Treasurer—Mrs. John Ives.

Secretary—Mrs. Oliver Rice.

Board of Managers—Mrs. Lucas C. Hotchkiss, Mrs. Levi Butler, Miss Georgiana Parker, Mrs. Dr. Churchill, Mrs. A. E. Bull, Miss Helen Bradley, Mrs. Eli C. Birdsey, Mrs. Fred Ives, Mrs. Lyman Clark, Mrs. Chas. Page, Mrs. D. C. Easton, Mrs. I. C. Lewis, Mrs. Eli Butler, Miss Laura Brooks, Mrs. Jacob Eaton, Mrs. Elijah Rice, Mrs. John Evarts, Mrs. Edward Griswold.

"It is proposed to canvass the town of Meriden to collect funds to furnish our Soldiers' Aid Society with money to carry on its operations. Citizens, we pray you receive our messengers kindly and give—remembering the noble band of heroes for whom it is asked."

The following reports for two months will show how earnestly the women of Meriden worked for the comfort of the soldiers.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Meriden in November, 1864, donated $108 in cash subscriptions to the "Ten Cent Fund" and likewise the following articles: 12 cotton shirts, 2 surgical do, 9 flannel do, 53 pairs flannel drawers, 2 pair cotton drawers, 26 pair woolen socks, 33 handkerchiefs, 3 quilts, 1 shoulder quilt, 13 arm slings, 17 housewives, 40 cushions, 2 pillows, 5 pillow cases, bandages, rags and lint, 18¼ lbs. dried fruit, 3 cans blackberries, 10 gallons pickles, sage, hops and Harper's Weekly.

The report for December, 1864, was: 25 pairs of flannel drawers, 11 flannel shirts, 8 pairs of socks, 1 sheet, 6 handkerchiefs, 3¼ lbs. dried currants, 2 lbs. dried apples, besides cotton and linen pieces.

For purchase of materials the contribution was sixty dollars. The donation and contribution to the "Ten Cent Fund" by the Young Ladies' Fair, First Congregational Church of West Meriden amounted to one hundred and forty dollars.

THANKSGIVING DINNER.

At a meeting of citizens held Nov. 14th, 1864, it was proposed that the loyal citizens of Meriden send the soldiers at the front a Thanksgiving dinner, and a committee was appointed to solicit contributions of money and eatables. Their report follows:

"The committee appointed to take charge of the fund and provisions for the Soldiers' Thanksgiving Dinner beg leave to report that they packed and forwarded seven cases containing one hundred and twenty-five turkeys, with chickens, spare-ribs, pickles, jellies, pies, tomatoes, doughnuts, stewed pears, cakes, etc., with two barrels of onions, three barrels of apples, three barrels of potatoes, and two cases of pickles, which we have reason to believe have reached the army and navy in good order. The committee take this occasion to thank the donors for their timely liberality, and to congratulate the citizens of Meriden on having the pleasure of bearing their share in this outburst of loyalty and delight so well expressed in a National Thanksgiving, and for their sympathy so well deserved toward our army and navy, while in their untold privations

and sacrifices they stand by the flag of our country. The committee have a small balance in their hands which they purpose to appropriate to the deserving families of the soldiers in our midst.

Committee—R. Linsley, Eli Butler, E. W. Hatch."

VOTES OF THE TOWN RELATING TO VOLUNTEERS.

In pursuance of notice, at a Town Meeting held at Town Hall on Saturday, June 29th, at 2 o'clock, of which James S. Brooks, Esq., was appointed moderator, it was

Voted, That the sum of $3,000 be appropriated by the Town of Meriden in addition to the sum of $5,000 appropriated in town meeting on the 25th day of April A. D., 1861, and that said sum of $3,000 be placed in the hands of four that day appointed to be by them disposed of as follows:

First, So much thereof as may be necessary to pay for the pistols furnished Capt. Byxbee's company mustered into the first of Conn. Vols.

Second, So much thereof as shall be necessary to furnish pistols or other arms for Captain Cook's company mustered into the Third Regiment Conn. Vols. if in the judgment of said committee it shall be deemed best to furnish either said pistols or other arms, and lastly that the balance thereof not expended for the purposes hereinbefore stated be held by said committee to be by them expended if necessary for the support of the wives and families of said volunteers, and for other purposes and objects expressed in the votes passed in town meeting on said 25th day of April, 1861. Also

Voted, That if the committee shall procure pistols, rifles or other arms for Capt. Cook's company, they shall deliver the same to Capt. Cook upon his agreement to return the same to the Town of Meriden when said company shall return home, except such as may, by the fortunes of war, have passed from under his control.

In pursuance of notice, at a Town Meeting held on Wednesday, July 16th, 1862, at 2 p. m., of which meeting J. R. Cook was appointed chairman, it was

Voted, That the Town of Meriden appropriate the sum of $50 bounty to be paid to each recruit who shall enlist in any Connecticut regiment now in the field, in the 14th Connecticut regiment or any subsequent regiment which shall be organized in Connecticut, in answer to the President's late call for 300,000 men, *provided* such recruit shall be a resident of Meriden at the time of his enlistment or shall enlist in a company started or got up in Meriden, whether resident of Meriden or elsewhere.

Voted, Second, That whenever any recruit, resident of Meriden, shall have a mother or other persons dependent for support upon such recruit, such mother and other persons shall be entitled to receive from the town the same monthly payment as is now given by the state of Connecticut

for the support of the wife and children of volunteers, and the selectmen shall determine who shall be entitled to such monthly pay under this vote.

Third, Voted, That said sum of fifty dollars bounty be paid at the time such recruit shall be sworn into the service of the United States and that the selectmen be directed to pay the moneys appropriated by this meeting out of any moneys in the treasury belonging to the Town of Meriden; and if no such moneys be in the treasury, that the selectmen be authorized and empowered to raise the sum by loan or loans upon the credit of the town, and to execute and deliver the proper obligations of the town to repay such loan or loans to the lender or lenders thereof.

In pursuance to notice, at a Town Meeting held on Saturday, August 23rd, 1862, it was

Voted, That the town pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each volunteer from this town for the nine months volunteers under the Governor's call for seven regiments of volunteers, to a number not exceeding that required to make one full company.

Voted, That the selectmen be authorized to borrow the money to carry out the above vote.

In pursuance of notice, a special Town Meeting was held on the 24th day of August, 1863, of which Henry C. Butler was moderator, which said meeting unanimously passed the following preamble and resolution, to wit:

Whereas, By the operation of the Act of Congress approved March 3rd, 1863, entitled, "An act for enrolling and calling out the National forces and for other purposes," many of the inhabitants of the town have been or are liable to be drafted into the military service of the United States whose labors are required for the support of their families and others dependent upon them, and whereby the town is exposed to charge on that account, and other inhabitants have been or are liable to be drafted who have not the means enabling them to pay the United States the sum required to be paid for the procuration of a substitute as provided by the 13th section of the act aforesaid.

First, Voted, That the selectmen of the town of Meriden are hereby authorized, instructed and directed to pay to each man from the Town of Meriden who have been heretofore, or who may be hereafter drafted into the service of the United States under the act of Congress approved March 3rd, 1863, entitled "An act for enrolling and calling out the National forces, etc." the sum of $300, upon such drafted man being mustered into said service.

Second, Voted, That the selectmen of the Town of Meriden are hereby authorized, instructed and directed to pay to each man from the Town of Meriden who has been heretofore or who may hereafter be drafted into the service of the United States under the act of Congress, "An act for enrolling and calling out the National

forces, etc," approved March 3rd, 1863, who furnishes an acceptable substitute, the cost of such substitute not exceeding in any case the sum of $300, upon such substitute being mustered into the United States service.

Third, Voted, That the selectmen of the Town of Meriden be and they are hereby authorized, instructed and directed to pledge the faith and credit of the Town of Meriden for the purpose of raising the money necessary to carry out the foregoing votes.

In pursuance of call at a Town Meeting held at the Town House Thursday, August 11th, 1864, at 2 o'clock p. m., Jared R. Cook was appointed moderator.

Said meeting after free discussion passed the following resolutions offered by Hon. O. H. Platt, to wit:

Resolved, That the sum of twenty thousand dollars or so much as may be necessary thereof be and the same is hereby appropriated by the Town of Meriden for the purpose of encouraging enlistments and of paying expenses incurred in filling the quota of the Town of Meriden under the present call for $500,000 men.

Resolved, That said sum be placed in the hands of the selectmen for the purpose aforesaid to be used at their discretion.

Resolved, That said selectmen are requested not to pay more than the sum of one hundred dollars for the enlistment of any man for one year, two hundred dollars for two years, and three hundred dollars for three years.

Resolved, That the selectmen are hereby authorized to borrow said sum of money in the name and upon the credit of the town.

In pursuance of call, a Town Meeting was held in the Institute room in Town House on Wednesday, August 24th, 1864, at 2 o'clock p. m. of which Henry C. Butler was appointed moderator.

The following resolutions offered by O. H. Platt, Esq., were upon free discussion, unanimously adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the selectmen of Meriden be and are hereby authorized and directed to pay to each man who has enlisted or shall hereafter enlist counting upon the quota of the Town of Meriden under the present call for 500,000 men a sum which with the amount he may receive from the fund raised and to be raised by subscription shall amount to the sum of six hundred dollars if enlisting for the period of three years, and three hundred dollars if enlisting for a less period.

Resolved, That the selectmen of Meriden be and are hereby authorized and directed to pay to each person who has procured or shall procure a substitute counting on the quota of said town under said call, a sum which with the amount he may receive from said subscription fund shall amount to six hundred dollars, if said substitute is or shall be accepted for three years, and three hundred dollars if accepted for a less period, *provided,* no person shall be paid a sum which with the

state bounty shall be greater than the amount paid by him for such substitute.

Resolved, That the selectmen be and are hereby authorized to borrow all moneys required to carry these resolutions into effect upon the faith and credit of the town.

Resolved, That the resolutions passed in town meeting Aug. 11th, 1864, be and are hereby rescinded, but

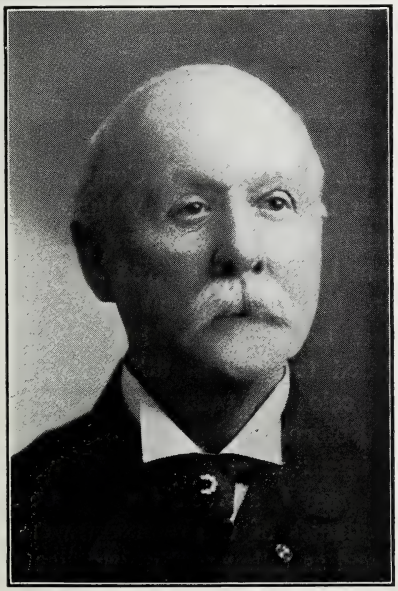


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
MAJOR THEODORE BYXBEE.

all acts done by the selectmen thereunder be and hereby are validated and confirmed. Said meeting also passed the following, to wit:

Resolved, That the four several banks in this town be hereby requested to loan in equal amounts temporarily, the necessary funds to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions.

In pursuance of call, a special Town Meeting was held at the Institute room of which Henry C. Butler was appointed moderator.

O. H. Platt offered the following resolutions which, after discussion, were adopted, as follows, to wit:

Resolved, That the selectmen of this town be and are hereby authorized and directed to pay for the enlistment of every volunteer for three years who shall be credited to the Town of Meriden, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars and shall also pay to every person who shall furnish an acceptable substitute for three years who shall be credited to the Town of Meriden a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, *provided* that the number of volunteers and substitutes for which said amount shall be paid, shall not exceed fifty.

Resolved, That the selectmen be and hereby are authorized to borrow on the faith and credit of the town sufficient money to carry out this vote.

In pursuance of call, a special Town Meeting was held at the Town House Saturday, Jan. 14th, 1865. Jared R. Cook was appointed moderator.

Voted, That the selectmen be and they are hereby authorized to pay such sum for the enlisting of men or obtaining substitutes to apply on the quota of Meriden under the present call for 300,000 men, as they shall deem fit.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Although Meriden showed her patriotism in pronounced degree by furnishing all the men asked for by the government, her sons had no opportunity of going to the front and taking an active part in the War with Spain. They were, however, ready and even anxious for the fray but the sudden and happy termination of hostilities made it unnecessary for them to show the fighting material contained in their ranks.

It was the first of June, 1898, that Captain C. B. Bowen, then on the retired list of the Connecticut National Guard, was commissioned by the Adjutant General's office of Connecticut to recruit a full company of men for the First Infantry, Connecticut Volunteers, a part of which regiment was then in the field. The Meriden company was recruited by him and ready to be mustered in June 15, but owing to delays by the war office, the United States army surgeons and mustering officer did not report here until July 5. On that date began the physical examinations of the men recruited, and finally on the afternoon of July 9, 1898, the entire company, officers and men, mustered to its full complement of 109, was formally mustered into the service at the town hall, at which ceremony none but the recruits, the mustering officer and surgeons were allowed to be present. All the recruits took the oath at once, and that same evening, in compliance with orders, boarded a train for Fort Knox, Me. Fort Knox is an old style stone fort located on the banks of the Penobscot river opposite Bucksport, Maine, about fifty miles from the coast. The Meriden company was designated by the war office as L Company of the First Infantry, U. S. Volunteers, and assigned to that regiment. The regiment had been mustered into the service May 4, 1898, at Camp Haven, New London, and May 22 was assigned to duty at different stations. The colonel's headquarters, unassigned field officers and six companies of the regiment were at Fort Knox when Company L arrived there. The other companies of the regiment were stationed as follows: With the lieutenant colonel two companies at Plumb Island, N. Y.; two companies at Fort Preble, Me.; one company at Gull Island, N. Y., and one company at Fort Constitution, N. H. The field and other officers of this regiment were: colonel, Charles L. Burdett, Hartford, Conn.; lieutenant colonel, A. G. Hammond, of Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; major, John Hickey, South Manchester, Conn.; major, Edward Schulze,

Hartford, Conn.; captain and adjutant, J. M. Wainwright, Hartford, Conn.; first lieutenant regiment quartermaster, A. H. Bronson, Hartford, Conn.; first lieutenant and battalion adjutant, P. J. Cosgrove, Hartford, Conn.; first lieutenant and battalion adjutant, F. E. Johnson, Hartford, Conn.; major and surgeon, T. F. Rockwell, Rockville, Conn.; first lieutenant and assistant surgeon, R. S. Griswold, Hartford, Conn.; first lieutenant and assistant surgeon, J. B. McCook, Hartford, Conn.; chaplain, H. H. Kelsey, Hartford, Conn.

The regiment at this time comprised but ten companies, but by virtue of general order No. 61, Headquarters of the Army, June 1, 1898, providing for the extension of regiments to twelve companies allowed the mustering of Companies L and M, the former of which was furnished by Meriden. On July 16, 1898, the war department issued orders for the rendezvous of the entire regiment at Camp Haven, New London, and from there was ordered, July 18, to Camp Alger, Va. The regiment at this time comprised 1,362 officers and men with band, and on their way to Camp Alger marched through Washington, D. C., where they were reviewed by the Secretary of War. The regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division and Second Army Corps and on September 7 left Camp Alger for Camp Haven, Conn., arriving two days later. The entire regiment was shortly after furloughed for thirty days, at the expiration of which time it was rendezvoused at Hartford, Conn., for the final muster out, which occurred October 31, 1898.

On the memorial tablet, placed in the First Regiment armory at Hartford, in memory of those who died while in the service during the Spanish-American war, is the name of the only man lost by Company L during the service, Arthur C. Lucchini, who died October 20, 1898, while on a furlough, from fever contracted while in camp.

The roster of Company L was as follows: Captain, Charles B. Bowen; first lieutenant, Delbert R. Jones; second lieutenant, Raymond G. Keeney, Somerville, Conn.; first sergeant, Philip T. Vibert; quartermaster sergeant, Arthur A. Abel; sergeant, W. H. Rees; sergeant, Howard L. Bartram; sergeant, Walter L. Bevins; sergeant, William H. Banner; corporal, Clifford A. Hauschild; corporal, Charles E. Wachtelhausen; corporal, Fred H. Relyea; corporal, Frederick C. Benziger, Yalesville; corporal, Thomas P. Timothy, Wallingford; corporal, Othniel Ives; musician, Joseph G. Aichler; musician, Edwin F. Bolton, Wallingford; artificer, Eugene W. Early; wagoner, Louis E. Coutermash; privates, Alfred A. Abel, Hartford, discharged August 11, disability; Louis Ammann, George H. Anthony, Southington; Axel M. Benson, Louis H. Bickford, Ferdinand L. Borchard, Maxwell Bofird, Clarence A. Bower, Yalesville; Charles A. Brecklin, Chas. S. Burdett, Albert A. Burr, promoted to corporal; Walter W. Burr, Philip

T. Carlin, Edward Carter, Anton Conreaux, transferred to band; Arthur Cooper, John J. Cox, Wallingford; Rollo Cobb, South Meriden; Frank E. Dainton, Frank A. Dulicke, Charles J. Depree, Frank W. Durkin, Bristol; Alfred Dussault, John W. Fletcher, New Haven; Henry E. Folse, John V. Foran, John J. Francis, Wallingford; Thomas Galvin, Willis W. Gardner, Louis Goldstein, Fred Gollnick, Michael Goodman, Joseph H. Gracey, Harry C. Granger, William G. Hiller, Harry E. Harvey, Morris Hennessy, John W. Hickey, promoted to corporal; Edward Higgins, Edwin T. Hogan, John Hopwood, James D. Hourigan, William G. Hyde, Michael Jirma, Wallingford; Herman Kaschube, John Kay, John J. Kelley, John J. Kennedy, Wallingford; John King, Joseph R. King, promoted to corporal; Chas. J. Kline, Wm. J. Knoblauch, August O. Kline, William D. Lee, Philip F. F. Lacourciere, James J. Lenihan, Arthur C. Lucchini, died October 20; John G. McGoldrick, Edward T. McLaughlin, Patrick J. Mulroney, William E. Noonan, August Numann, Charles J. O'Donnell, Charles A. Olson, William L. Penfield, promoted to corporal; Frank W. Pickhardt, John F. Plunket, Charles S. Perkins, Jr., promoted to corporal; Walter S. Reama, Eugene C. Rogers, Walter H. Royce, Bristol; Julius G. Runge, Lorenzo C. Russell, Joseph Seneal, George W. Shea, promoted to corporal; Patrick J. Shea, Norwich, transferred from Company A, Third; Anthony A. Sheehey, Wallingford; John J. Shinkey, Patrick J. Shortell, Herbert J. Siegel, Leonard Skinner, promoted to corporal; Michael Smith, Harry Stanley, discharged August 6, for disability; Floyd W. Stillman, Thomas E. Tighe, Whitney A. Todd, Yalesville; Michael Walsh, Frank M. Wollschlager, William Wren, Middletown, and William G. Young.

MERIDEN'S PUBLIC PARKS

CITY PARK.

Meriden possesses at the end of the first century of its existence, a park system of which its residents may well be justly proud; for in both area and scenic beauty it is unexcelled by any city in New England.

In 1899, by an amendment of the city charter, a park commission was created and Meriden's excellent park system since that time has been under the direct supervision of that board.

The oldest of Meriden's parks is known as City Park and has been reserved as a public breathing place since 1880. The situation of City Park makes it a convenient spot for an hour's recreation, being situated quite near the business center and contains about fifteen acres.



LOOKING TOWARD WALLINGFORD FROM WEST PEAK.

It is bounded on the south by Bunker avenue, on the west by Franklin street, on the north by Park ave-

nue, and on the west by Warren street, and adjoins Brookside Park.

For many years City Park was given but little attention by the city but since the creation of the park commission many improvements have been made.

oaks, red oaks, hickory, hard and soft maple, wild cherry and stately elm trees, and afford ample shelter from the rays of Old Sol, to tired individuals seeking respite from home and business cares.

The city has generously provided



LOOKING WEST FROM WEST PEAK.

City Park contains some of the stateliest shade trees in or about Meriden and many of them are older than the town itself. Nature has richly endowed this park with chestnut trees which bend with a friendly nod to the pin oaks, yellow

this park with swings and there is ample room on the well kept lawns for children to gambol on the green. This park contains a pavilion of generous capacity in case of sudden showers and other conveniences necessary to a public park. There is also a pig-



WEST PEAK, FROM EAST PEAK.



WEST PEAK, OR "PEARL KNOB," FROM PATH.



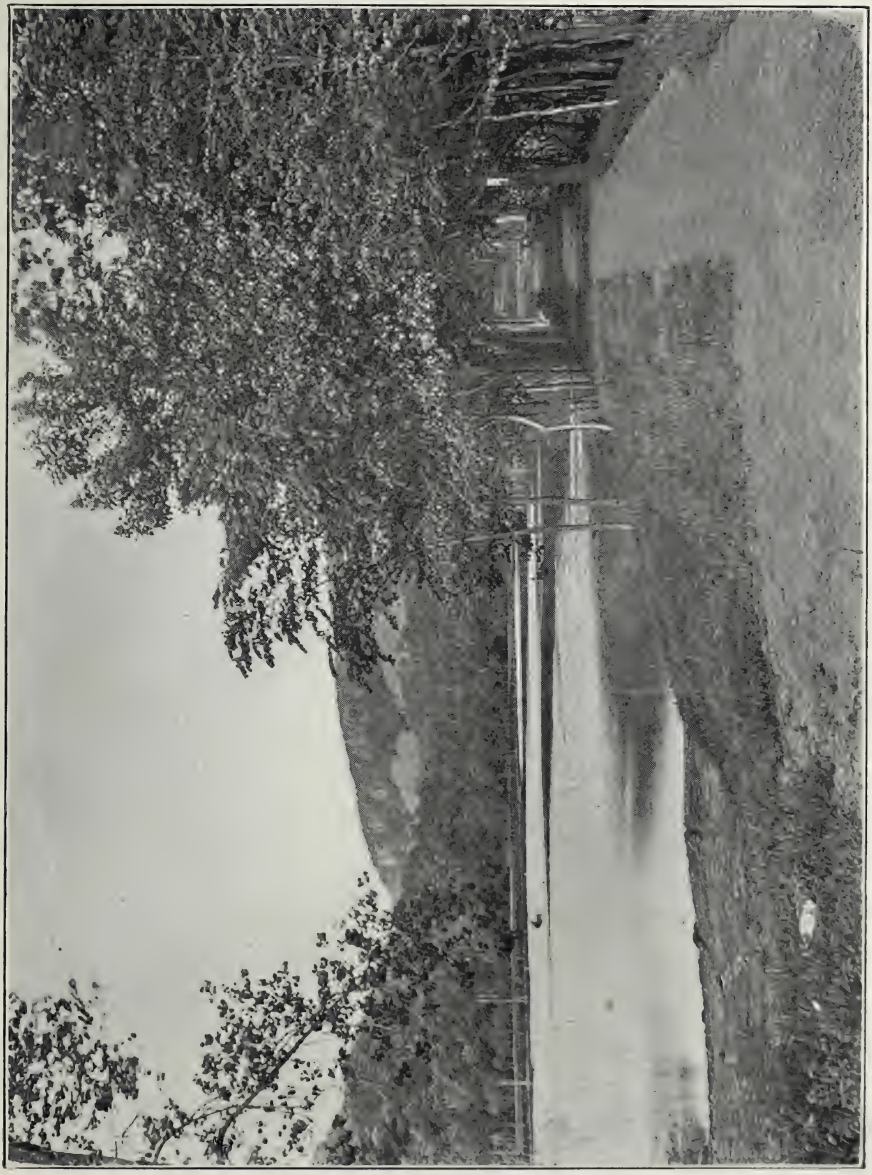
CASTLE CRAIG TOWER, LOOKING WEST.



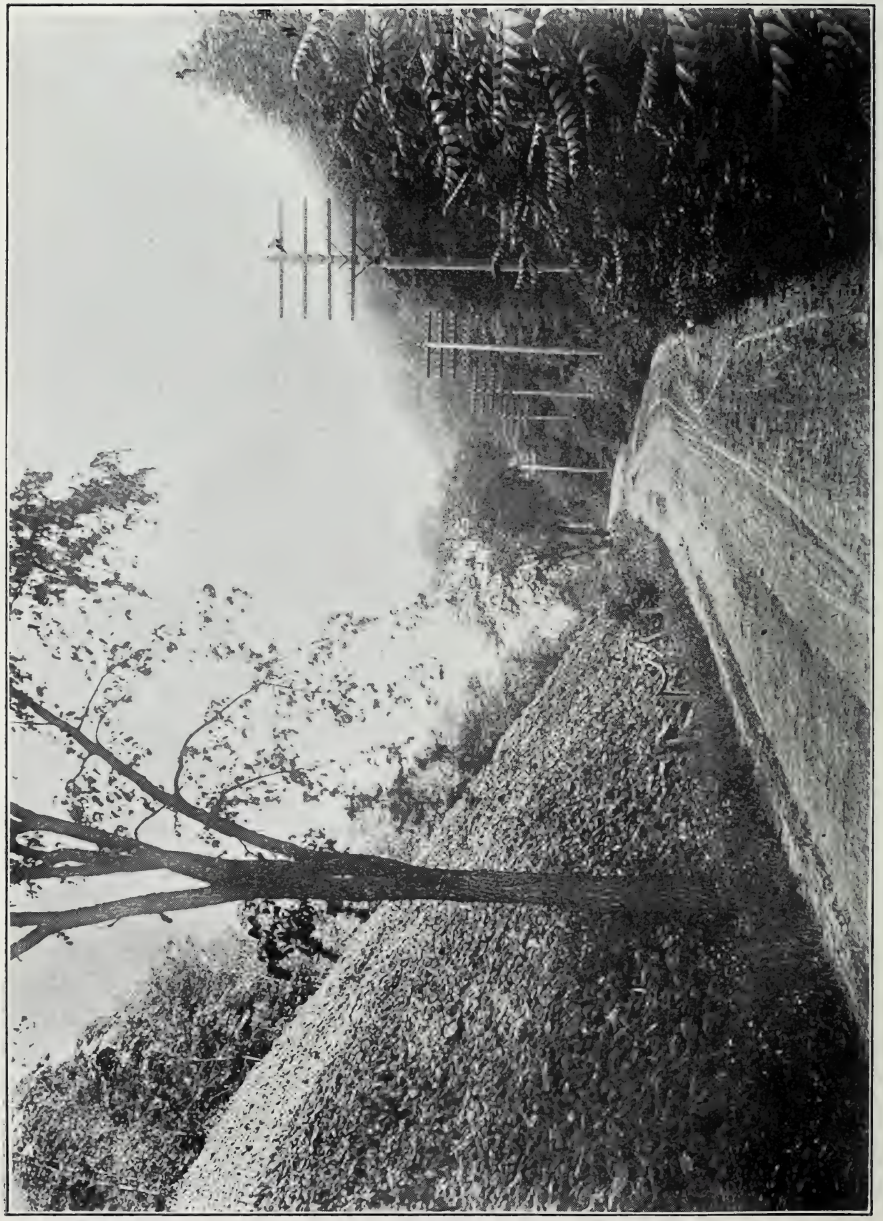
TOWER AND PAVILION, FAIRVIEW.



PLAYGROUNDS—MIRROR LAKE—CASCADES.



MIRROR LAKE.



CATHOLE PASS.

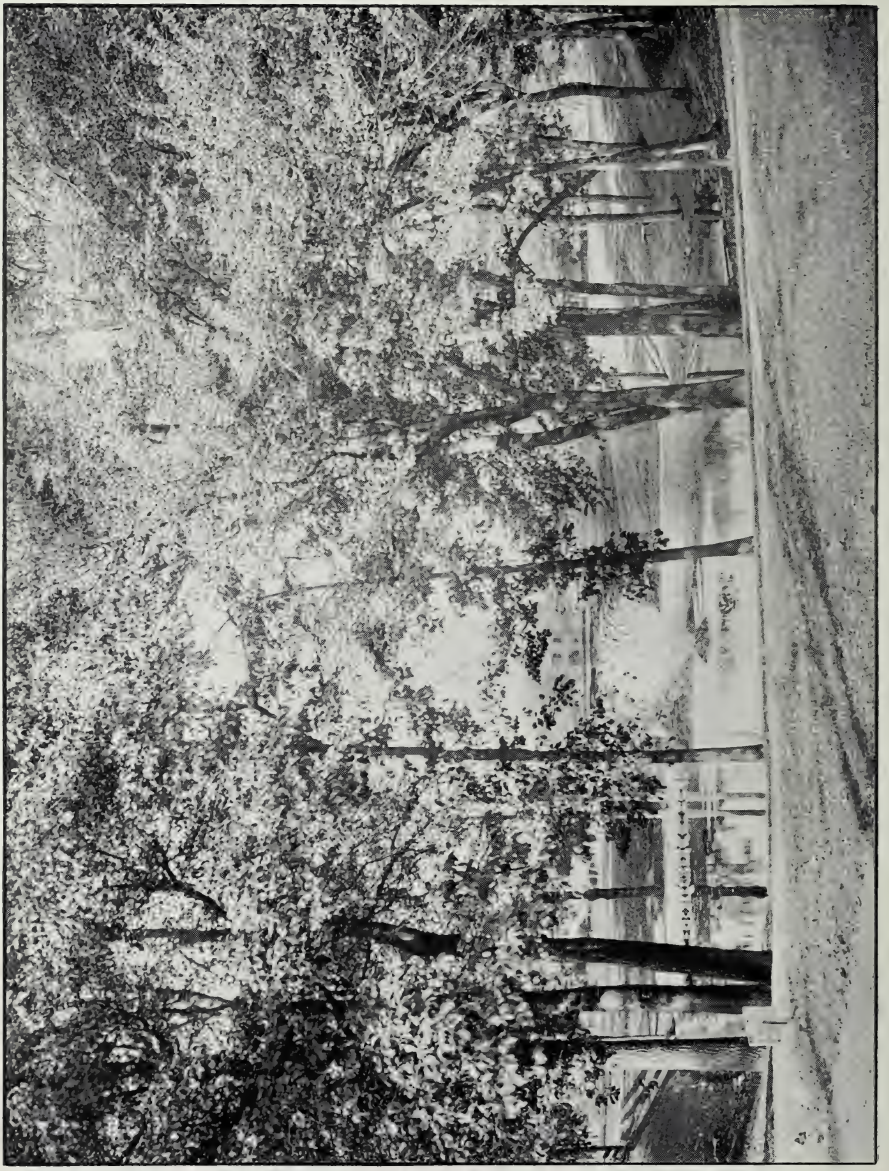
eon house which is the home of a large flock of these domestic birds both summer and winter. City Park also contains a water pool always free from stagnant water and settees are also to be found beneath the trees.

HUBBARD PARK.

In the western part of Meriden, and named in honor of its founder, is one of the largest, most diversified, interesting and striking parks, public or private, within the borders of New England. Included in its 1,000 acres or more are the celebrated Meriden Hanging Hills, with their mountain peaks (over one thousand feet elevation), with their crags, cliffs, etc., and abounding in features that suggest the wildness of the primeval period, while there are to be found all around spots of sylvan beauty. These hills are the highest land on the Atlantic seaboard, within fifty miles of the coast, from Maine to Florida. They are higher than Mt. Royal Park at Montreal, Blue Hills near Boston, East Rock in New Haven, or Eagle Rock of Essex County Parks, New Jersey. These five are the mountain parks of the eastern coast. All have rich beauty and magnificent views of their own. Each differs so much from the other that comparisons are not desired, but of this it is certain—let a person journey ever so far, he will never regret a visit to Hubbard Park. The scenery is exceedingly wild and picturesque, and is pronounced by celebrated landscape architects to be the most striking reservation of natural scenery for the use of a public park possessed by any New England city.

With the exception of about eight acres, a gift to the city by the Charles Parker Co. and that originally purchased by the city from the heirs of William Johnson for reservoir purposes, the land comprising the present Hubbard Park has been presented to the city of Meriden by Walter Hubbard, president of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., and by whom the park has always been cared for, developed and beautified without expense to the city.

The park is situated west of the city, about one and one-half miles, and can be reached by electric cars of both Meriden and Meriden & Southington lines, which make frequent trips, passing the entire south boundary which extends for more than a mile, affording grand views of the higher elevations. The founder, perceiving the great natural advantages this land possessed for a public park, asked and received permission from the city authorities to develop that portion belonging to the municipality, and the city has set aside and dedicated this land for a public park (with the beautiful reservoir, Lake Merimere, lying picturesquely between the cliffs and peaks) to which Mr. Hubbard has added many tracts of land, thus enabling him to present to the public its now priceless pleasure grounds, with its many fine roads and walks, leading to delightful views



FOUNTAIN AND POOL, CITY PARK.

and scenes, and to its sparkling springs, fountains, cascade and lakes.

When, therefore, the Court of Common Council of the City of Meriden voted to give Hubbard Park its present name, it was but a just recognition of Mr. Hubbard's princely generosity and interest in his fellow townsmen.

The act which follows was presented by Alderman H. T. King, March 7, 1898, Amos Ives, then mayor, presiding:

"Resolved, That the tract of land now owned by the city of Meriden, and extending from the Southington road to Merimere, or the old reservoir, and the property adjacent thereto, which is being improved by Walter Hubbard, and upon which he has already expended large sums of money for the benefit of his fellow citizens, be and the same is hereby designated, known and entitled by the name 'Hubbard Park,' in appreciation in a slight degree of Mr. Hubbard's noble and unselfish work in behalf of his fellowmen."

The same body on the evening of January 9, 1899, after the legislature had authorized the City of Meriden to bring Hubbard Park within its municipal domain, adopted the following resolution, introduced by Alderman Brainard:

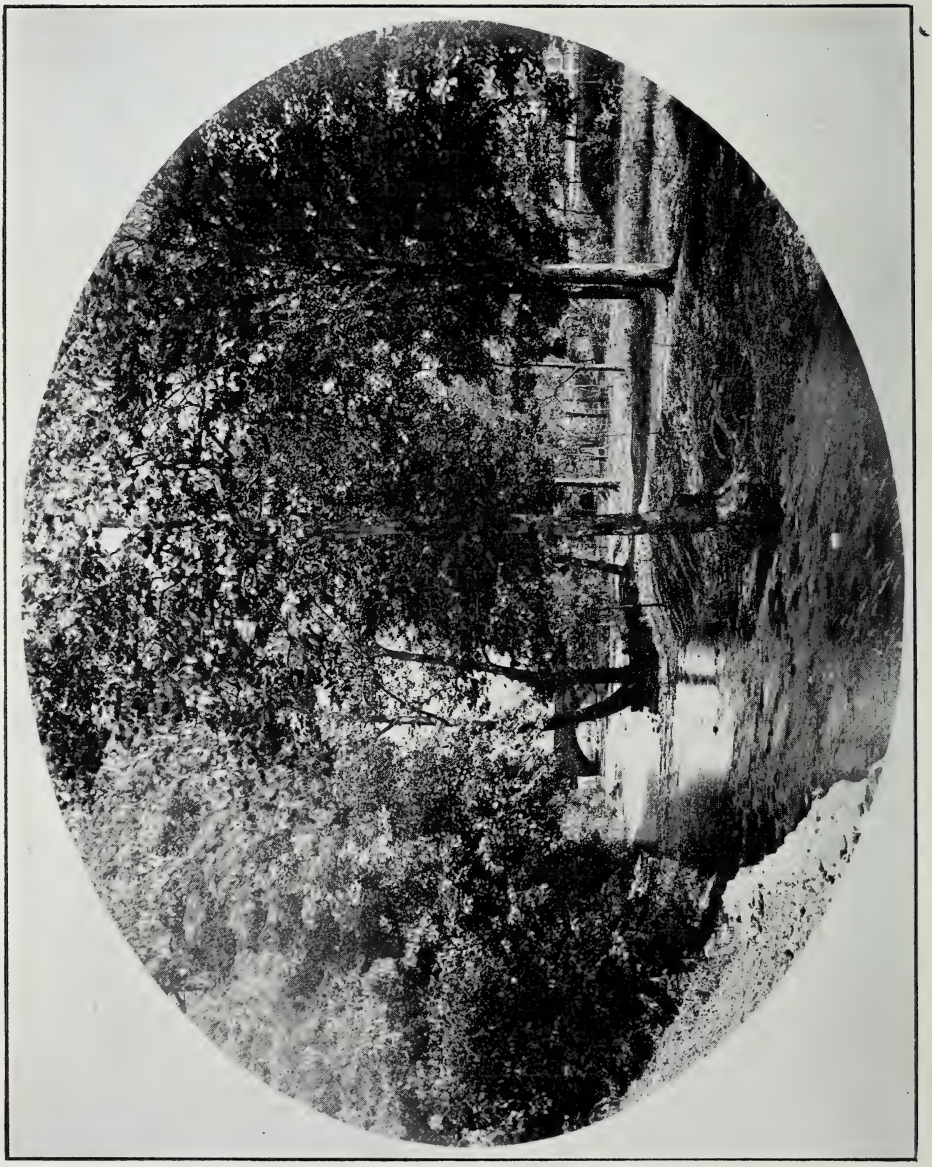
"Resolved, That the tract of land hereinafter described, belonging to the City of Meriden, except so much of the same as is used for reservoir purposes and is appurtenant thereto, be and the same is hereby dedicated and established as a public park, to be designated and named 'Hubbard Park.'"

The lakes abound with fish which are not for for the prey of the angler but a delight to the seeker of restful recreation and lover of nature. Trout are in the trout pool; pickerel at Mirror lake, which jump and dart, and in another part of the vast park is a pool of gold fish.

The water fowl of Hubbard Park comprise domestic geese and ducks, and genuine Canadian wild geese also inhabit the lakes of the park. The large number of tame pigeons at the park are a source of delight. There is also a large cage of squirrels, which, like the water fowl and fish, are given the greatest care and protection. The waterfalls of Hubbard Park are marvelous imitations of nature. A charming drive of about eight miles is via the celebrated "Cathole" Pass, the Blue Hills of Kensington, and through the park, by Lake Merimere, with grand scenery all the way.

BROOKSIDE PARK.

Most appropriately named is Brookside Park, a part of Meriden's park system. The land was purchased by Walter Hubbard, in 1901, and given to the city by him for park purposes. It extends from Camp to Broad streets, on both sides of Harbor Brook. a distance of nearly three-quarters of a mile and now includes a richly wooded knoll, given by the Miller Bros. Cutlery Company. The park



CASCADES AND BROAD STREET BRIDGE, BROOKSIDE PARK.

derives its name from Harbor Brook which flows through the entire park and its swift running water of the purest quality, adds greatly to its attractiveness.

Brookside Park was endowed not only with its name by Mr. Hubbard, but with all the vast improvements it possesses and until recently was maintained out of his private funds which he has so freely expended. Retaining walls have been built along the banks of the brook; rustic bridges have been constructed spanning the same; and the land has been largely remade. That Brookside and City Parks might be connected, several building lots on Bunker avenue were purchased; and the whole is now covered with a velvety lawn. Three pools where gold fish and beautiful pond lilies thrive add to the scenic beauty of the park. All of these pools possess fountains which keep them well filled with water. The park, with its many attractions, delights the visitor, and is frequented by people from all parts of Meriden, particularly by children.

The entrance to this park, on Camp street, is defined by two rustic stone pillars of large proportions. A newly macadamized drive extends through the entire park as well as numerous walks and paths. The park is kept in perfect condition by a competent corps of workmen and gardeners now paid by the city.

MERIDEN INSTITUTIONS

CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Dr. Trumbull, in his History of Connecticut, states that there were in 1818, 140 libraries in the state and that they had been instituted since the Revolution. Wethersfield had one, begun as early as 1783, a purely subscription library, its subscribers being shareholders in the corporation; Farmington had one, started as soon as 1785, and Waterbury in its Bronson library has books which were once in a library in existence there in 1797.

Meriden, as befitted a very small community, had a tiny library as early as 1796.

In the home of John P. Hall, in the eastern part of Meriden, is preserved an old Bible bound in pigskin, that was "Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and John Bell, Printers to the King's Most Excellent Majestie MDCXXVIII." On the inside of the front cover is this inscription:

PRESENTED TO MERIDEN
LIBRARY
BY
GAD ELY
OF
NEW YORK
NOV 29 1796

Miss Grace, a sister to John P. Hall, has loaned to the Curtis Memorial Library the catalogue of this first library and it is here reproduced.

There are 153 volumes in this list mostly relating to divinity and theology; and the taste of the reading public has changed to such an extent that it is doubtful if any one of these volumes would now be drawn if they were on the shelves of the present library. The Meriden Library was a subscription one like that in Wethersfield and on the probate records in Wallingford (where Meriden estates were then settled) there are several inventories which contain the item "Share in the library" amounting to about $1.65 each, viz: Deacon Ebenezer Cowles 1801; Samuel Whiting 1803; Daniel Hall 1805; and Ezekiel Rice 1809. This library was discontinued and the books distributed, but at what date no one knows.[1] The books were doubtless kept in the basement of the old church that stood where the present Center Congregational Church is located.

During the last century there were several attempts to start a public li-

1 At an adjourned town meeting held Feb'y 23, 1807, it was voted, "That the Books belonging to the Town be left with the Town Clerk.

"Voted, That the Books be loaned out for the term of four weeks.

"Voted, That if the Books are kept over one month the forfeiture shall be twenty-five cents with an increasing forfeiture of one cent per day until returned."

CATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS

BELONGING TO MERIDEN LIBRARY.

DIVINITY AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

American Preacher, 4 v 8 vo
Apology for Chriſtian Divinity, 1 v 12 mo
Backus on Regeneration, 1 v 12 mo
Backus's Sermons, 1 v 12 mo
Boſton's Fourfold State, 1 v 12 mo
Blair's Sermons, 3 v 8 vo
Beauties of Watts, 1 v 12 mo
Burnham's Pious Memorials, 1 v 8 vo
Cowper's Taſk, 1 v 12 mo
Doddridge's Ten Sermons, 1 v 12 mo
——— Life, 1 v 12 mo
——— Miſcellaneous Works, 5 v 8 vo
——— Riſe and Progreſs, 1 v 12 mo
Davie's Sermons, 2 v 8 vo
Dickinſon's Letters
Edwards's Diſſertations, 1 v 12 mo
——— Diſcourſes, 1 v 8 vo
Evangelical Principles and Practice
Fordyce's Addreſſes to Young Men
Fuller's Letters, 1 v 12 mo
——— Goſpel its own Witneſs, 1 v 12 mo
——— ——— worthy of all Acceptation 1 v 12
Flavel's Huſbandry Spiritualized, 1 v 8 vo
Hawies' Church Hiſtory
Hunter's Sacred Biography, 3 v 8 vo
Hervey's Meditations
Jones's Lectures
Joſephus's Hiſtory of the Jews, 3 v 8 vo
Life of Preſident Stiles, 1 v 12 mo
Lee's Trial of Virtue, 1 v 12 mo
Lathrop's Miſcellanies
——— Sermons
Lowman on the Revelations, 1 v 8 vo
Moral and Religious Repoſitory, 4 v 12 mo
Montague's Letters
McEwen on the Types, 1 v 12 mo
Maſſillon and Bourdaloue's Sermons, 1 v 12 mo
Milton's Paradise Loſt and Regained
Moore's Sacred Drama, 1 v 12 mo
——— Female Education
Newton (T) on the Prophecies, 3 v 12 mo
Newton (J's) Cardiphonia, 2 v 12 mo
Nelſon's Faſts and Feſtivals, 1 v 12 mo
Orton's Sermons
Porteus' Sermons, 2 v 8 vo
——— Lectures, 1 v 8 vo
Prideaux's Connections, 2 v 8 vo
Perkins' Sermons, 1 v 8 vo
Sherlock on Death
Strong's Sermons, 2 v 8 vo
Swan's Diſcourſes
Seabury's Sermons
——— Diſcourſes
Sturm's Reflections, 3 v 12 mo
Sherlock's Diſcourſes, v 4th
Watſon's Apology for the Bible
Walker's Sermons,
Watts on the Mind
Weſt on the Reſurrection
Williſton on the Sabbath
Young's Night Thoughts.

HISTORY, VOYAGES, TRAVELS, MISCELLANY, &c.

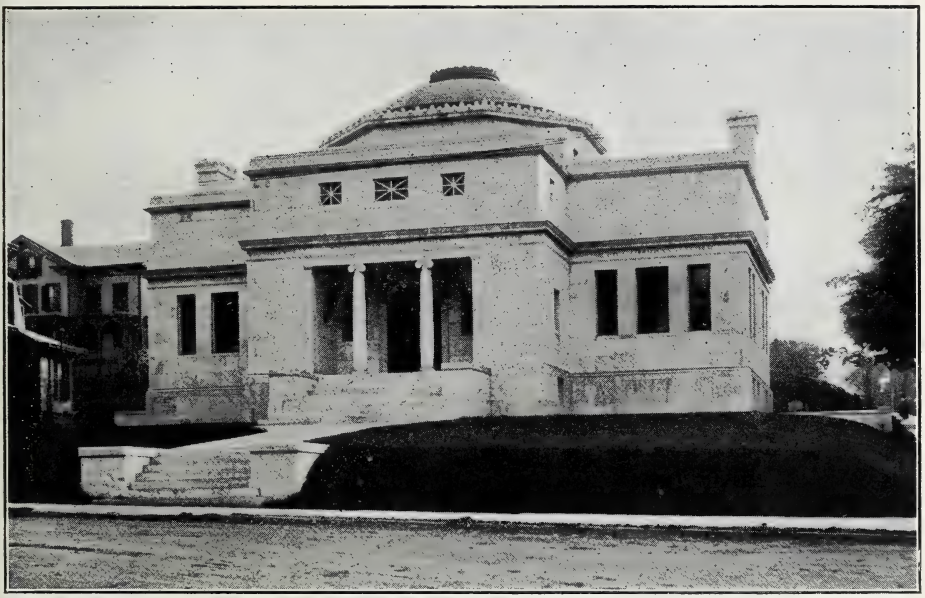
American Poems
American Farmer
Beauties of Hiſtory
Brydon's Tour through Cicily and Malta
Carver's Travels
Cook's Voyages
——— Laſt Voyage
Camilla, 5 v 12 mo
Cyrus' Travels
Emeline, 2 v
Fool of Quality, 5 v 12 mo
French Revolution
Gifford's Reſidence in France
Gordon's American Revolution, 3 v 8 vo
Goldſmith's Roman Hiſtory, 2 v 8 vo
Guthrie's Geography
Heath's Memoirs
Humphrey's Works
Hiſtory of the French Revolution
——— of Glaſcow
Hawkin's Voyage
Knox's Eſſays,
Lyttelton's England 2 v
Life of Doctor Franklin
Locke on the Human Underſtanding, 3 v
Millot's Univerſal Hiſtory, 5 v 8 vo
Mills on Agriculture
Memoirs of an Heireſs
Modern Travels and Voyages
Man of Feeling
Neal's Hiſtory of New-England, 2 v
Prophane Hiſtory
Ramſay's America, 2 v 8 vo
Savory's Egypt, 2 v
Smith's Wealth of Nations, 3 v
Spectator, 8 vo 12 mo
Voltaire's Hiſtory of Charles 12th. 1 v
Waſhington's Letters.

brary. The Meriden Republican in its issue of May 26, 1868, said "Some 20 years ago the Young Men's Institute collected 700 or 800 volumes for a library; but it declined and the volumes were scattered. Rev. Mr. Thacher, during his pastorate (1854-1861), made an effort to start a public library but failed. Rev. Mr. Hayden succeeded a little better and was instrumental in obtaining a charter and organizing a library association; but he was foiled in attempting to raise sufficient capital to erect the necessary building. Now the Y. M. C. A. have a building of their own fitted with library and free reading room. They have the remnant of the Young Men's Institute, and now they appeal for $1,500 to buy books." For years this library was the only one of a public nature in town. It was at first kept in the small wooden building which stood on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. and when the present brick building was erected in 1876-77 it was kept in the room where it is located to-day. The books were free to all for reference, but in order to draw a book and take it home it was necessary to become a member and pay annual dues of $2. The books at present number over 8,000 but on account of restrictions it is far from a free public library.

There have been various spasmodic attempts to raise sufficient money to start a free public library. On the evening of April 7, 1895, a public meeting was held in the town hall to devise means for forming a public library. Ringing speeches were made, great enthusiasm was shown by all; and various committees were appointed to raise funds and outline a feasible plan. But the great financial depression then existing blighted the project and the movement soon died a natural death. During the winter of 1897-8 the ladies of the Thursday Morning Club gave a series of lectures which proved so successful that at the close of the season the treasury of the club was found to have quite a sum of money on hand. Some bright mind of the club conceived the idea that it would be wise to devote this sum to a free public library for Meriden. Thus was the movement started which has proved so successful. At a meeting of the club a committee was appointed consisting of men as well as women to agitate and work for the project; at the annual town meeting held in October, 1898, an appropriation of $1,000 ($500 for running expenses and $500 for buying books) was voted, after considerable opposition, for supporting a free public library. At the same meeting the following directors were elected to carry on the work: Miss Jennie Page, Henry W. Hirschfeld, John L. Dolan, for one year; Albert B. Mather, Mrs. J. H. Chapin, Walter S. Billard, for two years; George M. Curtis, Thos. L. Reilly, Mrs. C. H. S. Davis, for three years.

Thus was born a public library in Meriden. It was decided to begin work at once. Two rooms in the T. J. Coe house, No. 104 East Main

street, were rented and Miss Lucy B. Wadhams, of Torrington, was engaged as librarian, with Miss Corinne A. Deshon as assistant. Meanwhile a number of ladies had associated themselves as a Library Whist Club, the purpose being to meet at different houses, and, by a system of fines and fees, raise money to aid in supporting the library. It is certain that the aid of these two clubs in supporting the library during these days of small beginnings was invaluable. The library was opened on the evening of January 30, 1899, for inspection only, and on the next day began the actual work of delivering books to the public with probably not more than 1,000 volumes on the shelves. There was a constant succession of gifts of money and books and the library grew as rapidly as conditions and circumstances would permit; but the rooms were small and the work was greatly hindered thereby. In April Miss Wadhams resigned her position and Miss Deshon was elected her successor. Mrs. Chapin would not accept the position of library director and Mrs. Caro A. Lyon was elected in her place and Miss Hannah K. Peck was elected as successor to Miss Jennie Page who married and removed from Meriden.



CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

On December 7, 1900, Mrs. George R. Curtis announced that she would contribute sufficient money to buy a site, erect a suitable building for a library and thoroughly equip it, provid-

ing the town would vote to annually appropriate $3,000 for running expenses. At a special town meeting held on the evening of March 12, 1901, it was unanimously voted to accept the offer made by Mrs. Curtis. Plans presented by W. H. Allen, of New Haven, were accepted, but as Mr. Allen at this time removed to California, Richard Williams, his successor, and who had drawn the plans, became the supervising architect. The Lawrence property on the east corner of East Main and Pleasant streets was bought and work on the site was soon begun. The contractors were The H. Wales Lines Co., of Meriden, mason work; Smith & McQueen, of New Haven, carpenter work; Sheahan & Groark, New Haven, heating; Menzies & Menzies, New Haven, plumbing; John F. Butler Co., Meriden, painting; C. F. Wooding Co., Wallingford, electric wiring; The Library Bureau, New York, furniture; A. B. & W. T. Westervelt, New York, book stacks, and The Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., Meriden, gas and electric fixtures.

On the afternoon of September 28, 1901, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies and U. S. Senator Orville H. Platt delivered the address. Meantime an appeal had been made for funds to buy books and the response was liberal, for up to this time more than $14,000 has been contributed for this purpose and many gifts of valuable books have been made. A bronze plate bearing the name of the donor has been placed in the stack room whenever a gift of $1,000 or more has been made; there are now twelve of these plates in the room.

List of those for whom alcoves are named: John D. Billard, Dorence K. Atwater, Clarence P. Bradley, Walter H. Bradley, Isaac C. Lewis, Frederick E. Curtis, Walter Hubbard, Walter Hubbard, Nathaniel L. Bradley, Edward H. White, George A. Fay, Walter L. Bevins, Russell Hall, Aaron L. Collins.

The autumn and winter previous to removal to the new building were busily employed by the librarian and her assistants in buying and cataloguing more than 10,000 volumes.

On the evening of April 20, 1903, the new library building was formally opened and a large number of Meriden citizens inspected the handsome edifice. The actual transfer of the property to the Town of Meriden took place in the assembly room on the second floor. The town was represented by George W. Miller, selectman, and the presentaton of the deed was made by George M. Curtis in behalf of his mother, Mrs. George R. Curtis. Governor A. Chamberlain, the architect, Richard Williams, and the contractors, H. Wales Lines and Mr. McQueen were present and a number of brief speeches were made. At 10 o'clock the next morning the building was opened to the general public and the usual work of a library began. There are now on its shelves more than 13,000 volumes. The directors have already been named. The



AUGUSTA (MUNSON) CURTIS.

officers are A. B. Mather, president; Thomas L. Reilly, secretary, and George M. Curtis, treasurer.

Corinne A. Deshon is librarian; Elizabeth L. Clark, first assistant; Emma L. Woodley, second assistant, and Edward Burns, janitor.

Richard Williams furnished the following architectural description of the library:

The design of the building is classical, the motive adopted being that of the Greek Ionic order as exemplified in the Erecthion at Athens; the relative proportion of all members of the order to the diameter of the columns is the same as in that most beautiful of all temples. In working out the details the architect availed himself of the most authentic works and measured drawings obtainable, to reproduce with exactness, the mouldings and ornaments of the temple, and thus embody in the Curtis Memorial Library, a lesson in the most finished example of the most refined Order of the Five, and thus contribute permanently to the advancement of knowledge through the expression of the architecture of the building; in harmony with the treasures of lore which are housed within its walls.

The exterior of the building is of Vermont white marble, the dome is covered with copper, and the interior woodwork is quartered oak, fumed finish. The entrance is approached by ascending several steps into a loggia which is floored with mosaic tile with a border of a Greek pattern; the walls and ceiling are covered with white marble slabs, and lighted by hollophane glass globes supported on bronze wall fixtures on either side. The vestibule is floored with mosaic, designed in the same patterns as in the loggia, and wainscoted with quartered oak. It connects with the delivery room, the assembly hall on the second floor, and toilet rooms at the side. On the east wall is a bronze memorial tablet bearing this inscription:

IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND
GEORGE REDFIELD CURTIS
BORN DECEMBER 25 1825 DIED MAY 20 1893
AND THEIR DAUGHTER
AGNES DESHON CURTIS SQUIRE
BORN APRIL 10 1863 DIED MAY 20 1900
THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED
1901—1902
BY
AUGUSTA MUNSON CURTIS

Opposite this tablet is a bronze alto relievo figure called Amor-Caritas, designed and cast by the celebrated sculptor, St. Gaudens, and erected by the members of the Thursday Morning Club in memory of Agnes Deshon Curtis Squire, a former member.

Opposite the entrance to the delivery room is the delivery counter and the stack room, 31x29 feet, with two tiers of book shelves and space for a third and containing altogether room for 40,000 books. Each alcove between book cases has a window at the end and the main corridor through the center is lighted by a large window at the end, and a skylight admits light into the center of the room. This room is absolutely fireproof and sepa-

rated from the main building by revolving steel curtains. There are two reading rooms, 18x30 feet, with a fireplace in each, set in a mantel of red Numidian marble. The delivery room, which occupies the center space under the assembly room and the dome, is 30 feet by 30 feet. On the north wall hangs a beautiful clock presented by the Ladies' Library Whist Club. The assembly room is 30 feet by 30 feet, and covered with a copper dome, and has a stage and two anterooms. The columns and entablature of this room are designed in the Greek Corinthian order and the proportions and details are the same as in the Choragic monument of Lysicrates at Athens. There is on this floor a committee room which opens from the lobby at the top of the stairs. The building is heated by direct and indirect steam radiation. Altogether the structure is built of the best materials and workmanship known to the trade.

The total cost of the site, building and fixtures was about $75,000.

THE CURTIS HOME.

On Crown street, on an elevation that commands a view of beautifully diversified country to the south and west, is the Curtis home, founded by one of Meriden's noblest citizens, Lemuel J. Curtis, who heeded well the biblical command: "Help ye one another."

The monument that tells, therefore, of the loving memory of Lemuel J. Curtis, with the highest praise was this home, provided out of the goodness of his heart for worthy aged women and children.

The establishment of the Curtis home was a wisely guided philanthropy that has achieved noteworthy success in the good Mr. Curtis aimed to accomplish. Its location is healthful and pleasant and fortunate are those who can avail themselves of the shelter there offered.

The first building of this institution was dedicated June 28, 1884. It was the children's home and stands now at the north end of the structures that comprise the institution.

Lemuel J. Curtis was for many years senior warden of St. Andrew's Episcopal church and one of its staunchest supporters. Besides the erection of the first building, which cost $50,000, before his death, he endowed the home with about $650,000.

Perhaps the act to incorporate the Curtis home of Meriden, passed by the General Assembly of the state of Connecticut, March 19, 1885, will best tell just the purpose and object Mr. Curtis had in mind when he created the home:

"Resolved by the assembly:

"Section 1. That Rev. A. T. Randall, Edwin E. Curtis, Lemuel J. Curtis, George R. Curtis, Owen B. Arnold, Levi E. Coe, Benjamin Page, Joseph Morse, James P. Platt, Hiram A. Yale, John P. Morse, Samuel Dodd, John W. Coe and William W. Mosher, being those persons at pres-



LEMUEL J. CURTIS.



BEDOTHA PIERPONT (BUTTON) CURTIS.

ent composing the membership of the rectory, wardens and vestrymen of St. Andrew's parish of Meriden, the same being a parish of the Protestant Episcopal church, together with such persons as from time to time succeed them in office, are hereby created and constituted a body politic and corporate under the name of the Curtis Home, and by that name shall have perpetual succession and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts whatsoever.

"The general object and business of said incorporation shall be to provide a home, employment and instruction for aged and indigent women, and for orphan and other destitute children, with the ultimate purpose of procuring them permanent situations and of fitting them to maintain themselves."

The late Owen B. Arnold was made the first president of the corporation; Rev. A. T. Randall, vice president; Robert H. Curtis, secretary, and William W. Mosher, treasurer. Messrs. Randall and Mosher still continue to hold the same positions.



CURTIS HOME, CHILDREN'S BUILDING.

The Curtis home is, and was intended to be, strictly under Episcopal management, but inmates who belong to other Christian bodies are housed there. That the Home should be a public institution was not the wish of the founder. It was his aim, and is

the aim of those responsible, for the carrying out of his wishes that it should be conducted with the privacy of a well ordered home.

The board of managers that controlled the home in 1885 was made up as follows:

Mrs. J. T. Pettee, president; Miss Celia J. Curtis, vice-president; Mrs. W. Curtis, Mrs. George E. Howe, Mrs. James P. Stowe, Mrs. A. T. Randall, Mrs. George A. Fay, Mrs. Charles N. Winslow, Mrs. J. H. Chapin, Mrs. Henry S. White, Mrs. G. H. Wilson, Mrs. Joseph Morse, Mrs. R. H. Curtis, Mrs. Chas. H. S. Davis, Miss E. A. Landfear, Miss H. E. Bradley, Miss F. L. Twiss. The



CURTIS HOME, OLD LADIES' BUILDING.

L. E. Coe, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Annie Palmer, recording secretary; Mrs. George R. Curtis, Mrs. H. Wales Lines, Mrs. J. H. Breckenridge, Mrs. Hiram A. Yale, Mrs. Charles C. Foskett, Mrs. John Ives, Mrs. George C. Merriam, Mrs. Horace C. Wilcox, Mrs. M. L. Forbes, Mrs. Harlow Brockett, Mrs. Alfred matron was Mrs. Annie Palmer and the physician, Dr. C. H. S. Davis.

A glance at the above names will show the reader to what extent interest in the Home was aroused among the best people in the town and how, from the first, they lent their hearty co-operation and support to the institution.

During all the years of its existence the Curtis home has been blessed with excellent management and to that fact its success has been largely due.

The managing board divided itself into a Visiting committee, a Purchasing committee and Committee on Applications, so that from the first the ladies did their part in a business-like, progressive way.

It was not many years after the opening of the home that the need of more room to carry on the work outlined by the founder became apparent and it was decided to build. The handsome light colored brick building that cost approximately $100,000, was the result, and was formally opened in 1896.

There are usually fifty or more old ladies and children at the Home.

The corporation made this the Old Ladies' Home and it was equipped with every convenience for their comfort and happiness. It stands to the south of the Children's Home and in plain view of the country for miles around.

Though this structure lacks the many cosy features of the first building, it is handsome, nevertheless, and fulfills all the requirements for which it was intended.

Always alert to the needs of the inmates of the Home and well aware of the fact that the young people who leave the institution, must be equipped to face the world, the corporation voted recently to have a manual training department, and also a gymnasium. To that purpose was erected a building costing several thousand dollars, finished in 1904.

The building stands in the south of the institution's property, is constructed of brick and has two stories. On the average twenty children receive instruction here. The buildings are of brick with terra-cotta trimmings, heated with steam, furnished with all modern improvements, and there are accommodations for a large number.

The trustees of 1906 are: Rev. A. T. Randall, Benjamin Page, John W. Coe, Samuel Dodd, William W. Mosher, Watson W. Clark, George S. Seeley, George M. Curtis, A. B. Mather, Clarence H. Fiske, Charles T. Dodd, W. J. Robinson and E. B. Moss.

President of board, Benjamin Page; vice-president, A. T. Randall; treasurer, W. W. Mosher; secretary, George M. Curtis.

The members of the board of managers are:

Mrs. Hiram A. Yale, president; Mrs. Levi E. Coe, vice-president; Mrs. C. H. S. Davis, secretary; Mrs. A. T. Randall, Mrs. George A. Fay, Mrs. Alfred W. Curtis, Mrs. George R. Curtis, Mrs. George C. Merriam, Mrs. Philip C. Rand, Mrs. Charles N. Winslow, Mrs. LeGrand Bevins, Mrs. Albert Babb, Mrs. John Ives, Mrs. W. J. Robinson, Mrs. J. H. Chapin, Mrs. E. A. Merriman, Mrs. L P. Butler, Miss Mary Butler, Mrs. M. L. Forbes.

The superintendency of the Home is in the hands of Miss Hannah K. Peck, who was appointed in 1895,

succeeding Mrs. Mary A. Carter. The matron of the Old Ladies' home is Mrs. M. F. Weeks.

Lemuel J. Curtis endowed the institution with an amount which will be ample to supply its needs in time to come and sufficient to pay all expenses of the home when filled to its utmost capacity.

Bedotha Pierpoint Button Curtis, the beloved wife of Lemuel J. Curtis, was a native of North Haven, Conn., and married Mr. Curtis in 1835. She survived both husband and children. The beautiful Home is also an eloquent memorial to the goodness of Mrs. Curtis, now deceased.

MERIDEN HOSPITAL.

Meriden is peculiarly fortunate in the possession of a city hospital, not excelled by any city in New England of like population. The accompanying illustration shows the building enlarged to its present proportions, the work of which was completed at a cost of $40,000, and the remodeled institution formally reopened June 29, 1905. The hospital was first opened in 1892.

To the public spirited men and women of Meriden was the credit due for the establishment of the hospital, which has since been maintained with growing usefulness every year. A charter was secured from the Connecticut legislature in 1885, and the original incorporators were the following: E. J. Doolittle, N. L. Bradley, John C. Byxbee, Robert H. Curtis, Rev. J. H. Chapin, George H. Wilcox, Isaac C Lewis, H. C. Wilcox, George R. Curtis, John Sutliff, Charles Parker, Seth J. Hall, Eli Ives, Levi E. Coe, Walter Hubbard, H. Wales Lines, William F. Graham and A. Chamberlain.

February 2, 1885, a hospital fund committee was appointed as follows: N. L. Bradley, S. J. Hall, Walter Hubbard and the late Levi E. Coe, George R. Curtis, Rev. J. H. Chapin, Charles Parker and H. C. Wilcox. A short time after a charter had been secured from the legislature, the ladies of Meriden met and appointed committees in the several wards as follows: Mrs. E. C. Allen, Mrs. A. E. Austin, Mrs. T. F. Breese, Miss Ida Byxbee, Mrs. Charles Casper, Mrs. Ada Converse, Mrs. R. H. Curtis, Mrs. A. Chamberlain, Miss Alice Derby, Mrs. George A. Fay, Miss Emma Gay, Miss Louisa Hitchcock, Mrs. Nancy Levi, Mrs. C. F. Linsley, Mrs. W. H. Lyon, Mrs. C. J. Mansfield, Mrs. George C. Merriam, Mrs. Rufus Merriam, Mrs. Benjamin Page, Mrs. A. Babb, Miss Rice, Mrs. Francis Stevenson, Mrs. George H. Wilcox and Mrs. C. N. Winslow. The ladies elected the following officers: President, Mrs. A. Chamberlain; vice-president, Mrs. Albert Babb; secretary, Mrs. A. B. Mather; treasurer, Miss Alice Derby.

Among the earliest undertakings of the ladies in aid of the hospital fund, were the rink party, February 13, 1885, concert and dramatic entertainment, at the opera house, April 13 and 14, minstrel entertainment, at the





ONE OF THE WARDS, MERIDEN HOSPITAL.

opera house, October 26 and 27, fair, at the same place, December 8-12. These entertainments netted handsome sums as follows: Rink party, $446.52; concert, $159.82; dramatic entertainment, $201.20; minstrels, $768.91; fair, $2,630.14.

The decisive step toward giving Meriden a hospital was taken February 23, 1892, when the old Jared R. Cook property was purchased from Cornelius J. Kooreman who had bought it with a view to remodeling the dwelling and making it a fine tenement house. The original value of the property was stated, at the time of purchase as $15,000.

Nearly every year since that time some big entertainment has been given for the benefit of the hospital, always successful, especially the annual hospital fair of recent years, which has become one of the principal social functions of the year. To a great extent interest has been kept up in the hospital by the earnest efforts of the Ladies' Hospital committee, of which Mrs. A. Chamberlain has been president since its organization. In 1893 the state of Connecticut granted an appropriation of $25,000 and a subsidy of $3,000 a year. The management of the hospital has always been the best and the success of the institution has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders.

The institution attempts and has the facilities for caring for any case which may be brought to its doors for admittance and maintains a training school for nurses. The hospital with its new wards and private rooms has accommodations for forty patients and in an emergency can take care of forty-five.

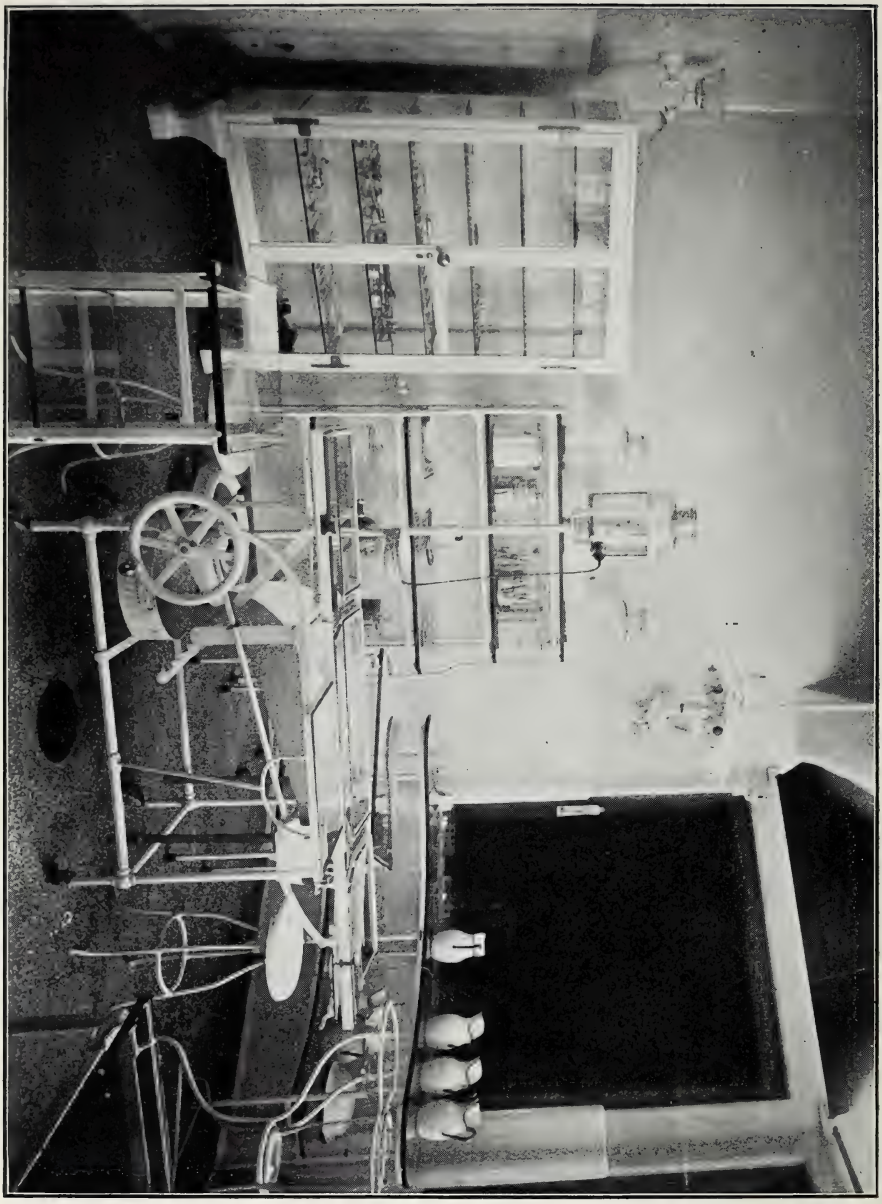
From the matron's report of year ending September 30, 1905, the following extracts are taken:

"During the year 220 patients have been treated. Since the opening of the new building about one-third more patients have been treated than in any other year during the same length of time.

"Nine patients have received the benefit of the Free Bed Fund for a period of 33 weeks; 30 town cases have been treated, 22 from Meriden, 4 from Wallingford, 4 from Southington; number of patients in hospital Oct. 1st, 1904, 9; whole number treated during year, 220; discharged cured, 144; discharged improved, 26; discharged not improved, 9; number of deaths, 29; number of deaths within 24 hours of admission, 2; remaining in hospital Sept. 30, 1905; 12; whole number of hospital days, 4,722; average number treated daily, 13; average number days for each patient, 13⅛; weekly cost of maintenance and treatment per patient, $11.85."

The present officers of the hospital are as follows:

President, Nathaniel L. Bradley; vice-president, Walter Hubbard; secretary, Edgar J. Doolittle; treasurer, Frank A. Stevens; auditor, Charles H. Wood; directors, Nathaniel L. Bradley John C. Byxbee, Walter Hubbard, John L. Billard, Seth J. Hall, August Schmelzer, Abiram Chamberlain, Ed-



OPERATING ROOM, MERIDEN HOSPITAL.

gar J. Doolittle, Charles L. Rockwell; finance committee, Abiram Chamberlain, Seth J. Hall, John C. Byxbee, Frank A. Stevens, Charles L. Rockwell; incorporators, E. J. Doolittle, A. Chamberlain, N. L. Bradley, August Schmelzer, John C. Byxbee, E. B. Manning, Robert H. Curtis, C. W. Cahill, George H. Wilcox, John W. Coe, Seth J. Hall, John L. Billard, Walter Hubbard, Joseph S. Stokes, H. Wales Lines, Oliver Swan; medical board, Dr. E. T. Bradstreet, chairman, Dr. E. W. Smith, vice-chairman, Dr. E. W. Pierce, secretary; physicians and surgeons, Dr. F. P. Griswold, Dr. J. A. Cooke, Dr. E. W. Smith, Dr. J. D. Eggleston, Dr. H. A. Meeks, Dr. E. T. Bradstreet; diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, Dr. E. A. Wilson, Dr. E. W. Pierce; matron, Rose G. Reed; pathologist, Dr. A. E. Van Tobel.

HOSPITAL ASSOCIATE COMMITTEE.

President, Mrs. A. Chamberlain; first vice-president, Mrs. T. F. Breese; second vice-president, Mrs. J. L. Billard; recording secretary, Mrs. N. F. Griswold; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. L. Rockwell; treasurer, Mrs. C. H. Stockder.

The hospital staff, aided by an efficient superintendent, a capable matron and a competent corps of trained nurses, has made an enviable record for this hospital in the curing of difficult cases and performing of delicate surgical operations. The hospital has had an efficient ambulance service since October, 1900.

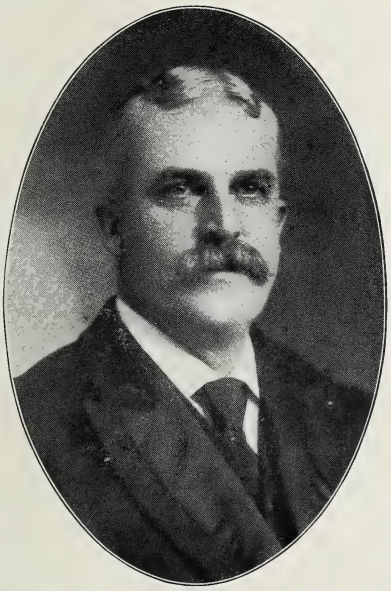
CONN. SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

The Connecticut School for Boys, beautifully located on a high elevation with large sloping lawns joining the buildings with Colony street, is the only state institution that Meriden possesses. This comprises a temporary home for boys who are delinquent and wayward and here they are taught discipline and good behavior as well as manual training, farming and several trades, and given a general education, in all of which the youths, who are committed there, show remarkable results of good training and strict discipline in a short time.

The "State Reform School" was established by act of the Connecticut Legislature in 1851, the first or main building shown in the accompanying illustration, being finished two years later. Since that time several other buildings, including a chapel and cottages, have been erected, until the institution has the appearance from a distance, of a college or seminary. The buildings of the institution, all well constructed, and mostly of brick, consist of one central building, 300 feet long, four stories in height, possessing a wing 120 feet long; five cottage buildings; a church edifice costing $15,000; a large boiler and coal house, an ice house, bakery, a large hay and cow barn, a horse stable and carriage shed, cattle sheds, wood houses and other smaller buildings.

In the rear of the institution is a farm of 195 acres suitable for raising

small fruits and garden vegetables, and through which a stream of pure water flows; and here there is also ample pasturage for cows. About 100 acres of this farm are cultivated by the boys who comprise the inmates of the institution. The various industries of the school give employment to over 400 boys. There is a tailor shop where the clothing worn by the



SUPT. CHARLES M. WILLIAMS.

boys is made and repaired; a printing office where all the printing of the instiution is done and from which has been issued for fifteen years, the monthly publication of the school called The Dawn. There are also six chair shops, where cane-seating is taught; a shoe shop where shoe-making is taught, and a manual training department where daily instruction is given to over 100 boys. The institution is carried on with every regard for economy; and the laundry, dining room, bakery, kitchen and sleeping halls all require classes of from six to ten boys each.

The boys are supplied with the best of plain food and every care is given to their mental and physical welfare. The inmates of the institution are boys between the ages of seven and sixteen years, committed to the school by any court of record in the state and also those who have their board paid at the rate of $3.00 per week, quarterly in advance, by their parents or guardians. Boys who observe the rules of this institution, even though they have been sentenced to serve a term there, may secure their discharge at the expiration of eleven months, no matter how serious the offense may have been for which they were committed.

From the fact that not all the boys at the Connecticut State School are necessarily bad boys, they are divided into several grades and for good behavior they may win honor marks, which means more privileges and more freedom. It is seldom that a boy tries to escape from this institution.

There is a force of about fifty officers and teachers employed at the school, which includes some of the best educational talent in the state. The boys are given at least two hours daily for recreation and on Saturday afternoon enjoy the freedom of ball playing or to indulge in other games that may suit their inclination.

A well trained band, composed of State School boys, has for some years been in existence.

Appended is a list of the trustees, officers and teachers at the beginning of 1906:

TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOOL.

Nathaniel L. Bradley, Meriden.
George P. Crane, Woodbury.
John C. Byxbee, Meriden.
Francis H. Parker, Hartford.
Joseph Hutchins, Columbia.
George O. Balch, Ashford.
John W. Coe, Meriden.
James N. States, New Haven.
Irving L. Holt, Meriden.
Charles B. Frisbie, Cromwell.
Clark C. Palmer, Griswold.
Zalmon Goodsell, Bridgeport.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

President—Francis H. Parker.

Secretary and Treasurer—Irving L. Holt.

Executive Committee—George P. Crane, John C. Byxbee, John W. Coe, Charles B. Frisbie, Francis H. Parker.

Committee on Discharges—John C. Byxbee, Nathaniel L. Bradley, John W. Coe, Irving L. Holt, George P. Crane.

Committee on Instruction and Training—Joseph Hutchins, James N. States, Zalmon Goodsell, George O. Balch, Clark C. Palmer.

OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL.

Superintendent—Charles M. Williams.

Matron—Mrs. Charles M. Williams.

State Agent—J. H. Parish.

Chaplain—H. N. Howard.

Bookkeeper—F. P. Owen.

Assistant Matron—Mrs F. P. Owen.

Consulting Physician—Harold A. Meeks, M. D.

Clerk—Miss Marie L. Duis.

Supervisor Manual Training Department—F. S. Hitchcock.

Assistant Manual Training Department—H. R. Stone.

Supervisor Printing Department—F. E. Tucker.

Carpenter—H. F. Wilbur.

Supervisor South Division and Band Master—T. H. Maguire.

Supervisor Dining Room—Mrs. T. H. Maguire.

Farmer—H. W. Kibbe.

Supervisor Sleeping Hall—Mrs. H. W. Kibbe.

Gardener—Hugo Reama.

Supervisor Chair Shop—C. P. Connolly.

Supervisor Sewing Room—Mrs. C. M. Brandenberger.

Hospital Nurse—Miss Julia O'Brien.

Supervisor Shoe Shop—Bernard Swenson.

Supervisor Boys' Kitchen—Miss Harriet Furbish.

Supervisors Laundry and Ironing Room—Mrs. Alida B. Clarke, Mrs. Kate McCauley.

Assistant Housekeeper—Mrs. J. S. Farnsworth.

Supervisor Bakery—B. Kreuzberger.

Engineer—W. D. Bennett.

Assistant to Engineer—Edward B. Hall.



FRONT VIEW OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

Supervisor North Division—Paul C. Booth.

Teachers in Congregate Department—Harold C. Robertson, James S. Farnsworth.

Cottage A.

Supervisor—W. W. Lunt.
Matron—Mrs. W. W. Lunt.
Teacher—Miss Clarise Stowell.

Cottage B.

Supervisor—E. S. Berry.
Matron—Mrs. E. S. Berry.
Teacher—Miss Amelia C. Meckes.

Cottage C.

Supervisor—Nelson J. Wells.
Matron—Miss Mary I. Rand.
Teacher—Mrs. John H. Parish.

Cottage D.

Supervisor—C. C. Sawyer.
Matron—Mrs. C. C. Sawyer.
Teacher—Mrs. Lilla F. Davis

Cottage E.

Supervisor—R. C. Leonard.
Matron—Mrs. R. C. Leonard.
Teacher—Miss Ruth M. Hanks.

Night Watchman—Issacher Currier.

Teamster—Dennis Keohane.

Cook Superintendent's Kitchen—Miss Hannah Crowley.

Cook Officers' Kitchen—Mrs. Mary Shandaroski.

MERIDEN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Meriden Young Men's Christian Association dates from the winter of 1865-6 and was incorporated June 27, 1866. The incorporators were Julius Pratt, Dennis C. Wilcox, Eli Butler, Hiram Foster, Charles Parker, Alden Clark, E. B. Everitt, William A. Bacon, Eli I. Merriman, Charles L. Kingsley, Erastus Hubbard, Edward H. Loomis, James H. Breckenridge, Alfred E. Camp and Levi Yale, Jr. The present site was purchased together with a small wooden building by means of a subscription

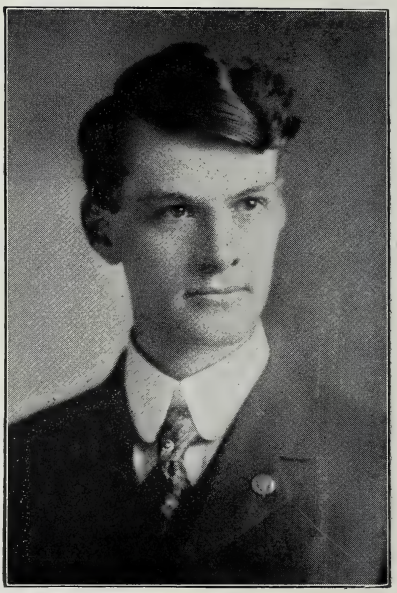


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
GENERAL SECRETARY E. K. ALLEN.

of about $7,000. By its charter the corporation was authorized "to establish, keep and maintain a library and reading room, and to promote such other literary and benevolent objects as it may think proper." In 1876 with a subscription of a little more than $20,000, it commenced the erection of its present building; the corner

stone of which was laid October 19, and July 31, 1877, the building, at a cost of $28,000, was finished, furnished and dedicated. The last of the debt was paid February, 1886. It was the first building erected exclusively for Y. M. C. A. purposes in New England and the property is now valued at $50,000.



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING.

After twenty years' occupancy of the building, so great became the demand for a modern gymnasium, that in 1897 the entertainment hall on the top floor was remodeled, the pillars removed and truss work substituted to support the roof. These changes have given the association the largest and best equipped gymnasium in the city. In 1889 the association secured an amendment to its charter and under

the new organization the work has steadily developed in efficiency.

Its membership during the past year averaged 330, and with the addition of about 175 life members, totals more than 500 members.

The following men have served the association as presidents since the incorporation:

J. H. Breckenridge, from July '66 to September '68; E. W. Hatch, from September '68 to September '69; F. H. Williams, from September '69 to September '70; F. G. Otis, from September '70 to '75; W. E. Benham, from September '72 to May '90; J. L. Rutherford from May '90 to May '93; W. L. Squire, from May '93 to May '96; W. H. Catlin, from June '96 to May '98; M. B. Schenck, from June '98 to May 1900; W. H. Squire, from May 1900 to May '03; W. L. Bevins from May '03 to February '05; C. A. Learned, from February '05 to date.

The officers of the association at this writing, are: President, Charles A. Learned; vice-president, Arthur E. Hall; second vice-president, Walter S. Billard; recording secretary, F. L. Burleigh; treasurer, W. M. Quested; librarian, B. R. Gardner. Following are the directors; George S. Seeley, F. A. Camp, Arthur E. Miller, I. I. Gardner, R. J. Merriam, Hubert Little, Rev. R. J. Beach, W. A. Hall, George S. Pratt The trustees are: George M. Lucas, 1908; James H. White, 1908; J. L. Billard, 1907; George M. Curtis, 1907; J. L. Rutherford, 1906; W. H. Squire, 1906. The general secretary is E. K. Allen; the physical director, J. Edward Reynolds.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Police Department of the city of Meriden was created in September, 1868, the Common Council, with Mayor Charles Parker at the head,



CHIEF C. B. BOWEN.

voting to replace the constabulary with a permanent and regularly paid force to meet the growing demand for better police protection; in the same month the police committee, consisting of Hezekiah H. Miller, William J. Ives, Walter Hubbard, Jared Lewis and J. R. Cook, practically effected the organization of the department, and in November the force began duty with the following members: William Hagadon, chief; and George Van Nostrand, Roger M. Ford and Samuel H. Wilcox, patrolmen.

The department at first had no particular headquarters; the lock-up was in the basement of the Town hall and was a large plank box affair, located at the west end of the building, the entrance being at the east end.

The chief did duty from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. and the patrolmen from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. At the beginning the men wore badges but had no uniforms and were distinguished by hats with flaring brims, upturned at the side. These, the first of Meriden's "finest," carried a club, revolver and twisters of catgut and wood. A little later uniforms were donned, the trousers of which had white stripes down the seams. The chief was paid $2.75 per day and the men $2.50 and they were elected yearly by the city Council.

William N. Beach was the next chief; and soon after his election the department was transferred to a city building on the site on Pratt street now occupied as the Turner hall, where the fire department also had quarters. Here there were cells and the chief had an office. Under Chief

Albert L. Otis, who succeeded Beach, and Franklin G. Bolles, his successor, there were but few changes.

With the election of Roger M. Ford to the head of the department in 1883, radical innovations and improvements were begun. The headquarters was transferred to a room in the Rogers block at the corner of East Main and South Colony streets, a central location and one that allowed of better police surveillance, but the same lock-up was retained as before.

Ford had seven men and they included Captain Van Nostrand, later chief, Patrolmen Herman Duis and Charles Kimball, still regular patrolmen, and Simon S. Hills, F. G. Bolles and Emanuel Withey.



MERIDEN TOWN HALL, DESTROYED BY FIRE FEBRUARY, 1904.

About four years later the department was installed in safe and comfortable quarters in the remodeled

Town hall where were a main office, chief's office, patrolmen's room, squad room and police committee room. The lock-up then was well equipped and divided into sections for men and women prisoners.

In 1895, the force consisted of a chief, captain, lieutenant, sergeant and twelve patrolmen and also a corps of fifty special policemen.

At the previous session of the Legislature the jurisdiction of the police was extended to the limits of the town, and the Police court was made the only tribunal for the hearing and disposition of criminal cases within the town's boundaries, abolishing the cumbersome and unsatisfactory system of grand jurors formerly in vogue.

In 1892 the Gamewell police signal and telephone system was installed and a patrol wagon was placed in service during Chief Ford's regime. During Mayor Ives' administration the present municipal commissions were established and much of the power of the Police committee and the Council became then vested in the Board of Police Commissioners.

Things went along smoothly in the department, with few noteworthy incidents, until February, 1904, when the Town hall was destroyed by fire and it was necessary to hastily seek quarters elsewhere. A store in the Byxbee block on Colony street was rented by the city, cells being constructed in the basement, pending the completion of the new Town hall.

April 30, 1898, Captain Van Nostrand was promoted to succeed Chief Ford. Under him the department was soon brought to a high standard of efficiency. He resigned February 1, 1906, and was succeeded March 1 by Charles B. Bowen and at which time also James J. Landrigan was appointed captain.

In 1903 the Legislature gave the four officers of the force the right to appeal to the Superior court if dismissed or reduced in rank. In 1905 the Legislature granted an amendment to the city charter, at the instance of Mayor George S. Seeley and commissioners August Maschmeyer, C. A. King, C. L. Upham and Robert W. Carter, whereby a police retired reserve list was established. The Council had defeated a movement for a pension fund. In August, Patrolman Simon S. Hills, who has been on the force since 1882, was placed on the list, and later at his own request, Chief Van Nostrand was also placed on the reserve list.

The department is considered one of the best in the state. Its maintenance costs the city $20,000 a year and it is conducted on an economical yet wise basis. In addition to four officers, twelve patrolmen and forty supernumeraries, there is a superintendent of the police signal system, a matron of the police station and a janitor. Funds are provided by the city for a physician for the prisoners and hospital service for the police. The signal system costs $600 a year and the patrol wagon but $125.

The department is provided with up-to-date equipment of which one of



MERIDEN POLICE FORCE, MARCH 1, 1906.

James M. Tolles	Chas. D. Lewis	Chas. P. Kimball	Herman Duis
Lieut. John J. McGovern	Capt. J. J. Landrigan	Chief C. B. Bowen	Sergt. Wm. D. Thayer
James F. Grady	Jas H. Burke	Jeremiah J. McCarthy	Edwin A. Puffer
Simon S. Hills	Joseph B. Doran	Herman F. Schuerer	Howard H. Bartram

the latest and most important additions is all the necessary apparatus for photographing prisoners accused of a felony.

The yearly arrests average about 600 and fines and costs nets a revenue to the city of about $5,000.

The personnel of the force is as follows: Chief of police, Charles B. Bowen; captain, James J. Landrigan; lieutenant, John J. McGovern; sergeant, William D. Thayer; patrolmen, Herman Duis, Charles P. Kimball, James M. Tolles, Edwin A. Puffer, Charles D. Lewis, James H. Burke, James F. Grady, Herman T. Schuerer, Joseph B. Doran, Jeremiah J. McCarthy, Howard H. Bartram, Joseph N. Lajoie and Biagio Guerrieri, the last two of whom were appointed March 19, 1906; reserve officers, Simon S. Hills and Geo. Van Nostrand.

MERIDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Meriden Fire Department had a very small beginning which dates back to the Cataract Engine Company, No. 1, West Meriden, formed in 1851 and numbering 100 men. The first engine of that company is now proudly exhibited by the Meriden Veteran Firemen's Association in parades and on other occasions. The company had quarters in a building on the site afterwards occupied by the opera house block. Water was first obtained from Harbor brook and cisterns conveniently placed; the old pumping pole on what is now the Bradley & Hubbard company's property and the cistern on what would now be West Main street are as well remembered by a few old timers as the cry of "Break her down, boys." Robert Oughton, later chief engineer of the fire department, was the first foreman of the old Cataracts. Later S. F. Linsley was first assistant foreman; R. Moss Breckenridge, secretary and treasurer. Some of the other members were: W. E. Benham, William P. Clark, E. R. Merriam, E. D. Castelow, A. E. Camp, H. B. Andrews, Mark M. Linsley, James Beadle, C. H. Warner, George Gay, J. P. Parker, C. J. Hull, J. B. Stevens, H. Botsford, Bela Carter, Wallace Bull, C. D. Loveland, Truman Stiles,

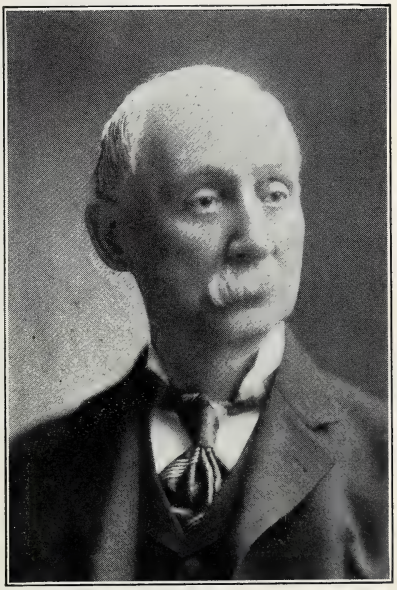


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
JOHN C. BYXBEE.

John Vorra, W. J. Kirtland, Wilson Carpenter, D. B. Comstock, Levi Moses, Gordon Bailey, William Goodwill, Norris B. Bull, Milo Goodrich, G. W. Lyon, and later on O. H. Platt.

Some six years after the forming of the Cataract Engine Company, T. J. Coe and other organized the Bucket Brigade which had a short existence. Charter Oak Engine Company, No. 1, and the company had quarters in the first engine house in Meriden, located on State street.

John C. Byxbee was also instrumental in giving Meriden its second company—Washington Engine company, No. 2. By subscription another and improved engine was bought and



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

CHARTER OAK HOSE HOUSE, ALSO HOME OF VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The machine used by this brigade was built after the style of the present "trucks," and buckets hung from long iron rods.

It was after the famous Corner fire of 1863 that John C. Byxbee, afterwards the first chief engineer of the department, with others, started the at the time the Pratt street station was dedicated, in 1867, was put to test with flattering results.

The old engines still do good work but Meriden has made progress in fire matters and there is now no further use for them.

The Charter Oak Hose Company,

No. 1, began its useful existence in 1863, as a companion to the Charter Oak Engine Company, George O. Higby being the first foreman. The company's two-story brick house on Butler street was the first of the buildings erected by the city; and this company holds an important place at the present time in the fire fighting service of Meriden. Its equipment comprises a hose wagon and a pair of fine horses skilfully handled and well cared for by Driver George N. Shepherd, who grew up with the company and was appointed in Chief John Tracy's administration. The other permanent man is Wallace R. Lucas. William N. Goodrich is captain of the company; John D. Roberts, lieutenant; W. E. Tourgee, clerk, and the hosemen are: Curtis Rockwell, W. D. Francis, William H. Rees, H. B. Penfield, B. I. Thompson and the substitutes, Albert Kaschubey and Oliver S. Warner.

At the outset, the Byxbee Hose Company, No. 2, was known as the Washington Hose Company and in 1865, was associated with the old Washington Engine Company. In 1870 the members joined the department under the present name and the company has proved a very valuable addition to the fire fighting force. Frank McPartland was the first regularly appointed foreman and then



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HEADQUARTERS OF BYXBEE HOSE CO. AND DOOLITTLE HOOK & LADDER CO.

came William Seery with John Luby as his assistant. In 1885 the hand "jumper" was exchanged for a new hose wagon and horse and E. J. Corrigan, the present driver, was appointed the driver. Mr. Corrigan was the first of the permanent men and possesses a proud record.

The company is now housed in the commodious fire building on Pratt street and has an up-to-date hose wagon with a pair of the best horses in the service. The beginning of 1906 finds the company personnel as follows: John F. Donovan, captain; James J. Donovan, lieutenant; Christopher Seery, clerk; E. J. Corrigan, driver; John J. Coogan, Michael J. Liddy, James Ford, Frank Waldron, P. F. Corcoran, John M. Reynolds, hosemen, and Robert J. Donahue and William H. Watts, substitutes.

The Parker Engine Company, No. 3, old, reliable guardians of the uptown district, was organized in a building on School street in 1869. Originally this was a hose house located on Center street opposite St. Rose's church and in 1877 quarters on East Main street were dedicated; but shortly after the steamer was bought the present fine building was erected on Broad street and the company's name was changed from the



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PARKER ENGINE CO.

Parker Hose Co. to the present title.

Finding that the pressure of the city water was low on the hill, the Common Council voted to buy a steamer and one was procured in July, 1884. Although not sufficiently surrounded with modern equipment at that time to prove its usefulness, the steamer has since become a valuable adjunct of the service and this steamer is now drawn by three powerful horses.

When the Parker Hose Company was organized George Lee was elected foreman. The members of the Parker Engine Company are: William R. Bailey, captain; M. J. Cullen, lieutenant; N. C. Smith, clerk; William C. Lucas, engineer; George C. Coan, stoker; Charles A. Merriam, hose driver; John H. Santaus, steamer driver; John Spencer, Charles A. Berry, C. H. Thomas, John Stickel, J. J. Thomas, W. H. Bemont, hosemen; Charles L. Selka, John J. Marquardt, substitutes.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

WILCOX HOSE CO.

The E. J. Doolittle Truck Company, at present a very important adjunct of the department, was organized in 1868 and William Haggerty was the first foreman. The "Hooks" had quarters in the old police building on Pratt street but afterwards moved opposite to share the present large and

handsome fire house with the Byxbees.

The company was first known as the Ever Ready Hook and Ladder Company, but the name was changed when the present quarters were taken, in honor of ex-Mayor E. J. Doolittle. The first foreman of the "Ever Readys" was William Haggerty. Later came C. H. Warner, William Marer July 1, 1887. Patrick McGrath came next and he is the present driver of the three horses that haul the new Seagrave Trussed Hook and Ladder truck. The members of the company are: John E. Moffatt, captain; Charles M. Blackwell, lieutenant; Walter C. Case, clerk and tillerman; Patrick McGrath, driver;



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

VOLUNTEER HOSE CO.

shall, George M. Barnes, Lew Allen, I. B. Hyatt and James O. Brainard. Among the old "Ever Readys" still in the "Hooks" are: Charles M. Blackwell, W. C. Case and A. S. Butler.

When the old hand truck was succeeded by a modern one Julius A. Lego was appointed permanent driv-

Charles E. Tyler, spare driver; William Roselius, Jr., A. S. Butler, Samuel Hobson, Thomas J. Roark, John Hobson, Emil Rebstock, John L. Coleman, John T. Ryan, laddermen; Frank M. Wollschlager, Thomas F. O'Connor, substitutes.

The Wilcox Hose Company, No. 4,

is one of the younger companies but long ago made up for its youth by faithful and conscientious attention to fire fighting. It was started in 1871 as a volunteer company and installed by the city in the handsome brick house on Colony street in 1878 as a permanent and regular company. John Inglish was the first foreman and his assistants were John Fitzpatrick and Oliver McCarthy. Later John Fitzpatrick became foreman and afterwards John Rahaley and later W. E. Byrne.

The Wilcox Company now has a substantial hose wagon and a pair of fine horses. The make-up of the company is as follows: Richard Shaw, captain; Dennis J. Horgan, lieutenant; T. L. Hagerty, clerk; John Rahley, driver; Timothy L. Haggerty, spare driver; T. F. Waldron, William L. Fredericks, Thomas H. Haggerty, James Kenworthy, Daniel Alexander, C. J. Heineman, hosemen; William J. Dowling, Michael Walsh, substitutes.

The last organized fire company is the Veteran Volunteer Hose Company, No. 5, located in comfortable but cosy quarters on Camp street. This company came to be organized through the removal of the "Wilcoxes" from Camp street in 1878 to their present home. This left a thickly-populated district practically without fire protection, so prominent citizens got together and the Veteran Volunteer Hose Company was the result. Among the charter members were: P. E. Hull, E. E. West, L. C. Brown, J. H. Williams, C. A. Miller, D. T. Lyon, Robert Oughton, W. T. Church, H. L. Sharkey, C. J. Heineman, R. Lee Isbell, T. M. Smith. Robert Oughton was the first foreman and D. T. Lyon succeeded him in 1884.

The volunteers have pulled their old reliable hand hose wagon to many fires in recent years, and they have done good work, but the fine equipment of the regular companies has made their services less and less urgent and the members now give more attention to the social gatherings for which they are justly renowned.

The officers and members of the company are as follows: David T. Lyon, captain; Henry G. Strickland, first lieutenant; James Hirst, second lieutenant; J. Messner, clerk; L. H. Sutterlin, treasurer; William Benziger, G. J. Griswold, H. L. Starkey, G. Gehrman, E. J. Oefinger, D. Flansburgh, J. J. Cassidy, William Oefinger, John Meiklem, William Benziger, Jr., Charles Milner, Harry Hirst, P. H. Timms, Jacob Oefinger, Gustave Kiser, hosemen.

The Meriden Veteran Firemen's Association, which has been in existence only a short time, numbers among its members many of Meriden's prominent citizens. It gives frequent social times that are very well received by all the people. John C. Byxbee was the first president; E. E. West, the second, and John D. Roberts is now president. The late Senator O. H. Platt was a member and when he died in 1905 the association took appropriate action and many members attended the funeral.

The Meriden fire alarm and telegraph system dates back to 1869 when Charles Warner was chief engineer. Under Chief John C. Byxbee the ward system of sounding an alarm in case of fire was adopted. In 1881 the fire alarm telegraph was introduced and the alarm was sounded from St. Andrew's church bell for a time, then the present tower bell was erected on Pratt street. In 1889 the fire alarm boxes were changed and systematized much as at the present time. There are now tower bells in all the houses and the amount of wire used in the fire alarm telegraph is seventeen and one-half miles. From the last annual report of Superintendent William C. Lucas, it is found that there are also forty-five signal boxes and one mile of underground wire. The fire alarm telegraph system of Meriden is valued at about $15,000.

The volunteer fire department was started in 1867, when Meriden was incorporated a city, and John C. Byxbee was made the chief engineer. His assistants were Christopher Rebstock aad Michael Carlin. The following year J. W. Hiney was made chief and he was assisted by Charles Warner and Arthur J. Hughes. Warner, with A. J. Hughes and A. W. Harvey, as assistants, followed Hiney and that same year, 1869, the water works was finished, and the old hand engines were abandoned. Arthur Hughes succeeded Chief Warner and then came Robert Oughton. He was the last head of the volunteers.

The present paid fire department was started in 1873 and John C. Byxbee was made first engineer. He was also chairman of the water board and for both positions received $500 a year. After two years he declined to serve longer and Edward Roarke was elected. Following Chief Roarke came Linus Moses, John F. Butler, Isaac B. Hyatt, Owen Horan, John Tracy and Frank L. Cowing. Chief Hyatt served many terms, coming between Chief Engineers Horan and Tracy and Tracy and Cowing, but after many years of efficient service he died April 28, 1906.

Jerome Bailey, assistant chief engineer for years and rightfully considered a valuable man in the department, then became acting chief. David Bloomfield has been the efficient fire marshal for years.

The Meriden department is one of the finest in Connecticut. It consists of ninety-one men, sixteen horses and there are about 9,000 feet of hose. The apparatus is as follows: One hook and ladder truck, one Silsby steam fire engine, four hose wagons, one chief's wagon, one hand jumper, two three-horse exercise wagons; in reserve, one two-horse hose wagon and one two-wheeled hose jumper.

The property of the department is valued at nearly $100,000, and the department is maintained at an expense of about $28,000 a year.

The largest fire the department had to fight in recent years was the burning of the old Town hall in February, 1904, and the force did nobly in pre-

venting the total destruction of the building.

Meriden's latest great fire was that of the Meriden Opera House in 1906.

MERIDEN VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

This organization, as its name implies, is composed of men who have made records as fire fighters in Meriden. Although the services of some date back to 1851, the association was organized under its present name, June 13, 1902, since which time its meetings have been held at the Charter Oak Hose house, where it was formally organized. John C. Byxbee was elected the first president; Edward E. West, vice-president; John D. Roberts, secretary; and George N. Morse, treasurer.

About a month later the old "hand pump" shown in the accompanying illustration was presented to the association by the Charles Parker Company. The engine has an interesting history, being over fifty years old and is a relic of bygone days justly cherished by the members of the association, and it has been the center of attraction at the different firemen's parades in this and other cities for many years past. This machine recalls interesting reminiscences to the older citizens of the town, for as recorded by R. Moss Breckenridge, one of the first officers of the old Cataract Fire Engine Company, when the machine was in its best days practically every male resident of the town, whether rich or poor, loaned a helping hand in case of local conflagration.

The constitution of the Veteran Firemen's Association was drawn up by George O. Higby, L. C. Brown and Thomas Kearns. This was adopted at a meeting held April 16, 1903. The late E. E. West, at one time mayor of Meriden, was chosen the second president of the association May 4, 1903; John D. Roberts then being made vice-president; George N. Morse, secretary, and George N. Shepherd, treasurer. On September 2, 1904, the association, largely augmented by the addition of several new members including many prominent citizens of the town who were made honorary members, took a most creditable part in the firemen's muster held in Southington, the uniform of the association at that time comprising caps, red shirts, and badges, the old "hand tub" being gorgeously decorated with ribbons.

On January 7, 1904, the association held its first ball which was one of the social events of the town. At a meeting of the association held September 15, 1904, John D. Roberts was elected president; A. A. May, vice-president; A. B. Butler, secretary; and George N. Shepherd, treasurer. May 11, 1905, John D. Roberts was elected president; Richard B. Kearney became its vice-president; Albert A. May, secretary, and George N. Shepherd, treasurer. In

1905 the association voted to apply for membership in the Connecticut Valley League, and for several months prior to the Centennial celebration of Meriden, this association became active in the formation of plans to bring to Meriden during the celebration the Veteran Firemen's Associations of other Connecticut cities, during which the old "hand tub" was again the center of attraction, and drawn through the streets with just pride on the part of the men of the town who have earned their title as veterans, and with it membership in this organization.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLD CATARACT ENGINE AND MEMBERS OF VETERAN FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

SOCIAL CLUBS

THE HOME CLUB.

The Home Club of Meriden, the leading social organization of the city, composed of men representative of the best interests of the state.

The Home Club was formed in 1880, when, after the disbandment of



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HOME CLUB HOUSE.

occupies a handsome club house at the corner of Colony and Foster streets, which was built for its use in 1902. Its active membership is limited to 250 and includes the leading business and professional men in the city while its non-resident membership list is

the old Meriden Club, which occupied rooms in Palace block, the need of such an organization became apparent. Early in that year a meeting of those interested was held at the Meriden House. A temporary organization was effected and arrangements

made for securing rooms on the third floor of Wilcox block, then being built. When the block was completed that fall, the club was formed with E. J. Doolittle as its first president and at the January session of the Legislature it was incorporated as "The Home Club of Meriden" with E. J. Doolittle, Horace C. Wilcox, Isaac C. Lewis, Levi E. Coe, E. B. Cowles, W. H. Lyon, E. C. Savage, George H. Wilcox and John W. Coe as incorporators. This act of incorporation was accepted by the club on May 7, 1881.

The club continued to occupy those rooms until January 1, 1885, when it moved to the new Byxbee block in which rooms on the second floor had been planned for its use.

Before 1900 those quarters were inadequate and unfitted to the growth and development of the club, and a number of efforts were made by special committees to secure a club house but without success until January, 1902, when a special committee was appointed to report to the club plans for enlarged quarters. This committee consisting of Abiram Chamberlain, E. J. Doolittle, C. F. Linsley, Dr. E. T. Bradstreet, James H. White, Charles T. Dodd, C. F. Monroe, Dr. E. W. Pierce and F. E. Sands, after careful consideration of plans and

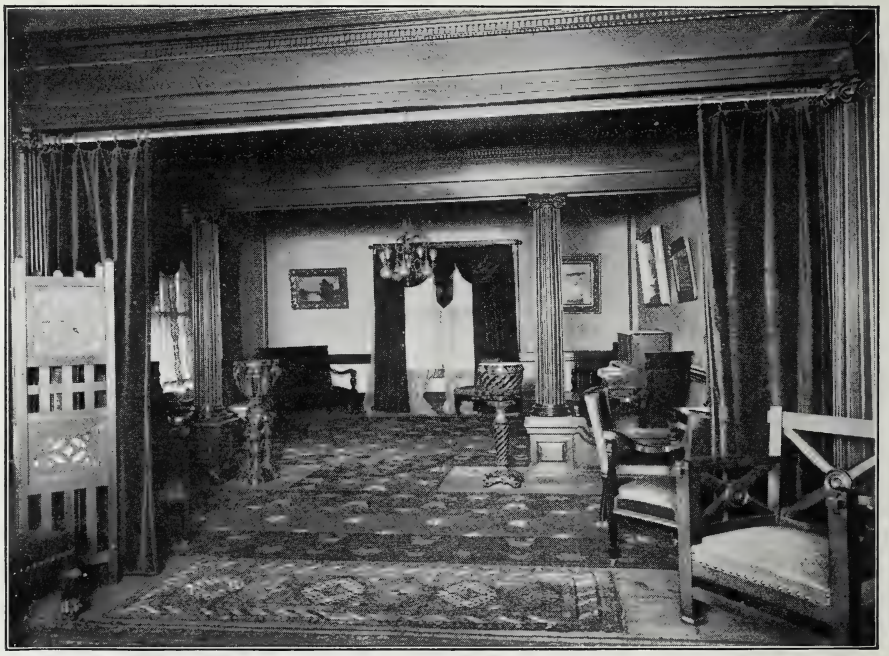


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PARLORS, HOME CLUB.

sites, recommended to the club the formation of a holding company to purchase a site and to erect thereon a club house. The lot at the corner of Colony and Foster streets was selected by vote of the club and a special committee of seven, consisting of C. F. Monroe, F. E. Sands, I. L. Holt, A. B. Squire, Dr. F. L. Murdock, Louis Fisk and James H. White, was appointed to further the plan and obtain subscriptions to the capital stock. They were so successful that soon after the Home Club Realty Corporation was formed, with a capital of $25,000. The corporation at once purchased the site, adopted plans and let the contract to H. L. Morehouse for the erection of the club house. It was completed, furnished and formally opened, January 1, 1903.

The club house is a very commodious and conveniently arranged building of colonial design with broad verandas, and large and light rooms, attractively furnished. On the north side of the first floor is the reading room, and on the south side very handsome parlors. Back of the parlors is the dining room and a café, and back of the reading room, a card room and coat room. On the second floor, besides a large, light card room opening on the upper veranda, is the big



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

UPPER HALL AND BILLIARD ROOMS, HOME CLUB.

billiard room at the north end with committee and card rooms at the south end. On the third floor is a large ball room with storage room adjacent. In the basement are private dining rooms, the kitchen and necessary storage room. The building is equipped throughout with telephones, call bells, exhaust fans and all modern conveniences which go to make club life attractive to the business or professional man.

The club is governed by an executive committee of nine members, including the president, secretary and treasurer, from which are appointed all standing committees.

About the club centers the social activity of the city, as each year there is given a series of balls, cotillions, club dinners, card parties, ladies' afternoons and musicales. For such events the club is particularly well equipped with its three floors of commodious rooms, including the ball room on the top floor. Its social prestige is therefore high and the numerous events largely attended and greatly enjoyed.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HALL AND READING ROOM, HOME CLUB.

The officers of the club January 1, 1906, were: Dr. F. L. Murdock, president; Arthur D. Meeks, first vice-president; C. E. Stockder, second vice-president; Louis Fisk, secretary, and

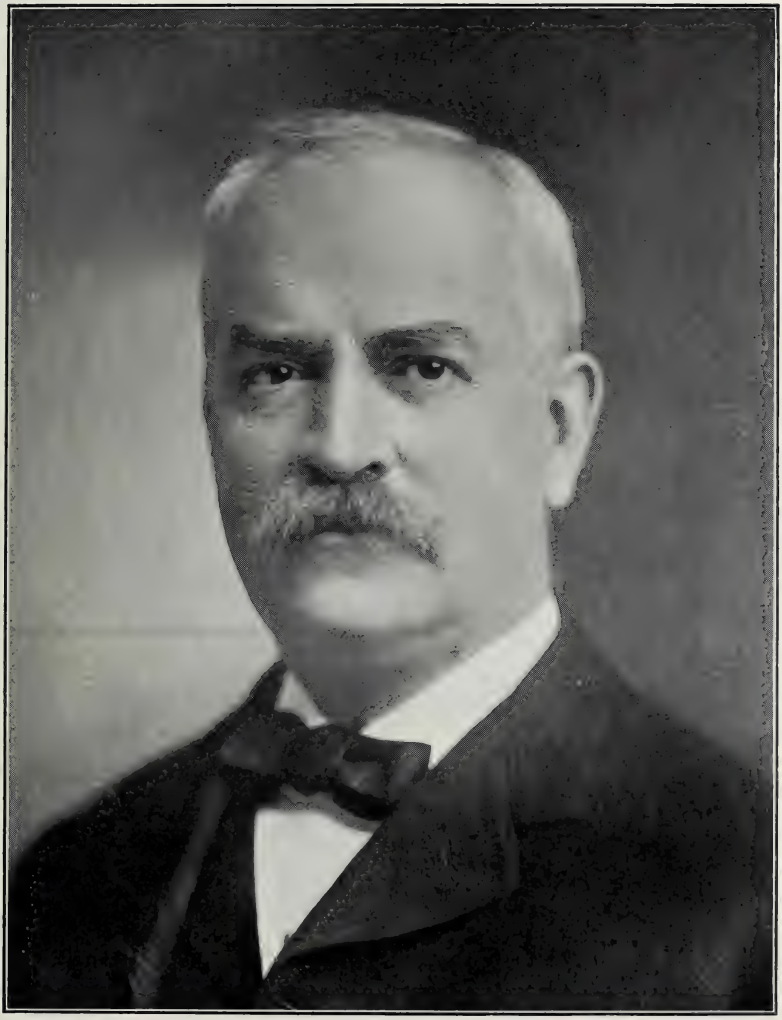


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

W. H. A. MAYNARD.

W. J. Prouty, treasurer; who with C. W. King, F. H. Billard, R. W. Carter and I. Burton Miller constituted the executive committee.

W. H. A. MAYNARD.

Walter H. A. Maynard, manager of the Home Club since January 1, 1903, was born in Natick, Mass, March 26, 1857, and is known by the members of the club as "Pop." He learned the doctrines of an epicure under Daniel H. Maynard, his uncle, who for a quarter century conducted the famous Samoset House at Plymouth, Mass.

Since coming to Meriden Mr. Maynard has enjoyed a high reputation, first established here at the Winthrop Hotel. When his services were secured by the Home Club, the members became satisfied that there was none better to manage their house. His paraphernalia comprises every facility. No social function is too large and none too small to secure his service as a caterer, provided the call comes from the right direction; nor in recent years has any occasion been considered a complete success unless he has furnished the viands.

He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, R. & S. M., and enjoys a wide acquaintance and deserved popularity among the leading citizens of this town and elsewhere. His leisure moments are spent at the "Bungalow," which he built on Notch Road at Lake Merimere in 1903.

MERIDEN WHEEL CLUB.

The oldest cycling organization in Connecticut is the Meriden Wheel club and it was started December 18, 1880, when there were less than a dozen bicycle riders in Meriden. For two years members met in Dentist T. S. Rust's rooms, but in 1882 permanent quarters were secured in Palace block and have been continually occupied since.

Among the early members were Dr. T. S. Rust, W. H. Squire, J. E. Brainard, L. A. Miller, Max E. Miller, William Collins, Horace Miller, Frank A. Stevens, Reuben J. Rice, Wells McMasters, Joseph Hyde, E. J. Pooley, Harry A. Stevens, Albert L. Stetson, John W. Lane and C. Win. King.

Cycling those days was a far different proposition than the present day. The ordinary, or high wheel, as known by many, was the only make in existence and later day devotees of the low safety never experienced the exhilarating fun of coasting down a steep hill with feet thrown high over the handle bars and seated in a narrow saddle fifty-six inches from the ground. It was seldom a "high wheeler" went through the season without one or more croppers and these are often recalled when the veterans get together and talk over old times.

Twenty years ago the roads throughout Connecticut were in abominable condition. Sandy soil and rocks abounded in every direction. The agitation of the rapidly increasing ranks of cyclists for good roads quickly bore

fruit and Connecticut to-day has hundreds of miles of macadamized state highways.

The Meriden Wheel Club was a strong factor in the good roads movement. J. E. Brainard, then president, and Attorney H. T. King, also a member, appeared before the Legislature several times and their hard work did much towards the success of the project of improving the roads.

It was two Wheel Club members, W. H. Squire and F. C. Borst, the latter at the time being a reporter for The Journal, who originated and pushed through the cycle path project from Meriden to North Haven, which was a great boom for bicycling at that time. John S. Lane & Son furnished free the trap rock used. Liberal contributions were received and the path was finally constructed under the direction of President J. E. Brainard, who later made one of the best street superintendents Meriden ever had.

It was under the auspices of the Meriden Wheel Club that three big national circuit race meets were given in this city in 1895-'96-'97. All the famous riders participated and some idea of the magnitude of the undertaking can be realized when the club went to an expense of over $1,000 for each meet. They were very success-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PARLOR, MERIDEN WHEEL CLUB.

ful, however, and all told the club netted about $400 by the races.

While the bicycle craze has departed in the last few years the Wheel Club still retains its membership of nearly 100 and many socials are enjoyed at the club. Last year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the club was celebrated with a banquet at the Winthrop hotel.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

BILLIARD AND CARD ROOM, MERIDEN WHEEL CLUB.

No liquor is allowed in the Wheel Club and it is an organization of which the citizens of Meriden are proud.

The present officers are:

President, Carlton H. Winslow; vice-president, Horace W. Stowe; financial secretary, William H. Hirschfeld; recording secretary, William E. Graham; treasurer, E. J. Pooley; captain, F. A. Morse; executive committee, H. F. Neuman, E. B. Matteson, T. E. McKenzie, A. U. Unger.

THE COLONIAL CLUB.

This leading social club with a full membership of 350, non-membership of fifty and a waiting list of thirty, occupying commodious and handsome quarters covering the entire top floor of the Wilcox Block, was formally organized March 19, 1901. The meeting was attended by the members of the Royal Arcanum and when the charter

membership list was opened forty-eight signatures were then and there secured. This was the final result of a previous suggestion made at Pilgrims' Harbor Council, by its vice-regent, Joseph A. Roberge. His plan of forming a social club in Meriden composed of members of the Royal Arcanum for the purpose of extending the social features of



WILCOX BLOCK, HOME OF THE COLONIAL CLUB.

the order met with immediate favor by the members most interested in the upbuilding of the organization. The committee of ten appointed to ascertain if the project was a feasible one for the two local councils to assume, was composed of the following: Col. C. L. Upham, chairman; E. J. Doolittle, J. A. Roberge, L. G. Birdsey and N. D. Clark of Pilgrims' Harbor Council and J. H. Bowker, Willis J. Prouty, Horace S. Savage, G. H. Yeamans and L. H. Ives of Alfred H. Hall Council.

The committee reported adversely on the project, believing that the Arcanum should not be asked to assume any financial responsibility in the premises; but the members were of the mind that the club should be formed independent of the councils. Personal solicitation resulted in securing 138 names and many more promises should the club become a reality. Thus encouraged an independent committee set about making plans for the organization and considering locations



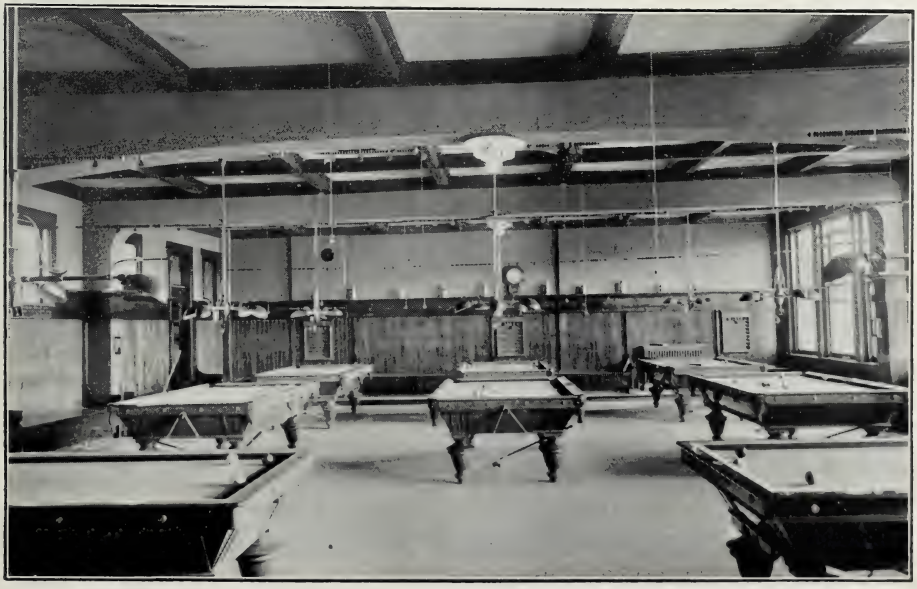
PARLOR, COLONIAL CLUB.



ASSEMBLY HALL, COLONIAL CLUB.



CARD ROOMS, COLONIAL CLUB.



BILLIARD ROOM, COLONIAL CLUB.

for rooms, the top floor of the Wilcox Block being selected by this committee as most desirable.

At the meeting held at City Mission Hall, at which the organization was perfected, the following officers were chosen: C. L. Upham, president; J. H. Bowker, vice-president; H. S. Savage, secretary and C. P. Rice, treasurer.



SOCIAL ROOM, COLONIAL CLUB.

A committee consisting of H. A. Curtiss, C. J. Danaher and G. H. Yeamans was appointed to draft the constitution and by-laws. There was also another appointed to arrange and carry out a fair the proceeds of which were to be used for furnishing the club. That committee was composed of J. A. Roberge, Thomas L. Reilly, C. J. Hinsdale, J. H. Bowker, Geo. F. Rogers and A. W. Hitchcock.

It was voted at a later date to restrict the membership to 200, and the full complement of members was secured before the rooms were opened. That the fair given by the club was a success both socially and financially is now a matter of history and that subsequent functions of the club have likewise reflected credit upon its members and the community as well, cannot be gainsaid. That the Arcanum Club started on its journey forward without any of its members being blindfolded seems to be conclusively proven by the remarkable success

achieved from the very beginning. On Nov. 1, 1904, the club became an open one and others beside members of the Royal Arcanum were made eligible to membership. From this date the club experienced a remarkable growth, increasing from 125 members to 350, its present limit, and largely owing to the untiring and earnest efforts of Geo. F. Rogers.

By vote of its members in January 1906, the name of the club was changed to that of the Colonial Club, which it now bears. In the spring of 1906 the quarters of the club were enlarged and the building was altered and refurnished at an expense of $3,000, giving the club the whole of the top floor of the building. These changes also gave the club the opportunity to better accommodate the members and to fit up the largest billiard and pool room of any club in the state. The rooms of the Colonial Club are luxurious in appointment and furnish every possible comfort of club life as indicated by the accompanying illustrations. The large assembly room is used for the meetings of the organization as well as the social events, and in this also the Meriden councils of the Royal Arcanum, the Elks and the Heptasophs hold their regular meetings.

The club possesses its own steward who has four assistants in keeping the club rooms in apple pie order, and also catering for the regular Saturday evening lunches, given in the banquet room by the club to its members. The Colonial Club possesses an orchestra of ten pieces composed exclusively of members, and this orchestra dispenses delightful music there every Saturday evening.

The officers of 1906 are George E. Bicknell, president; W. H. Squire, first vice-president; George Ohl, second vice-president; C. C. Powers, secretary and L. T. Fuller, treasurer. The house committee are George F. Rogers, chairman (by virtue of this office also business manager of the club), J. H. Bowker, E. G. Johnson and H. W. Storrs. The executive committee at this writing consists of the officers of the club and Geo. F. Rogers, J. H. Bowker, E. G. Johnson, E. L. Montgomery, Harry J. Williams and H. W. Storrs.

YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.

This society whose membership of 560 distinguishes it as the largest total abstinence organization in the state, was organized Nov. 21, 1880, in room 16, Palace Block, with fourteen members, having the following objects in view: The promotion of total abstinence, morality and benevolence. To these objects the society has strictly adhered and to this fact the success of the organization is attributed. It is maintained entirely by the following sources of



PARLOR, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

LIBRARY, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.

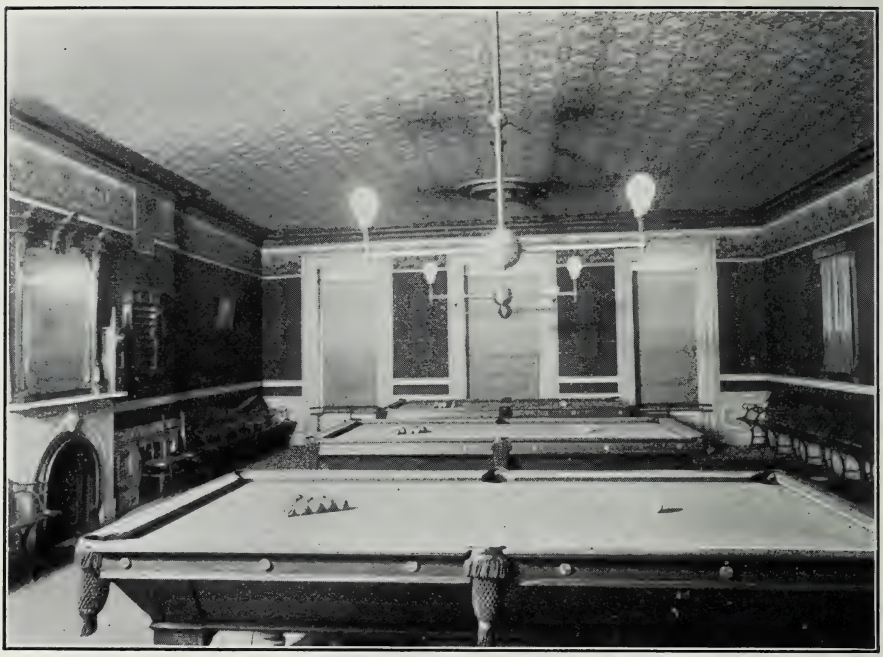


CARD ROOM, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

SMOKING ROOM, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.



POOL ROOM, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

CARD ROOM, YOUNG MEN'S T. A. B. SOCIETY.

revenue: Monthly dues, which are 50 cents, and by public events of which two are given annually; an excursion, usually to New York and Coney Island, on which they have carried as many as 1,800 people on one occasion; and an entertainment and dance that has been given in the town hall on each Thanksgiving night. Its membership is composed exclusively of Catholics between the ages of 18 and 35 years. The society was incorporated on March 22, 1893. The officers are elected semi-annually. The benevolent feature of the organization is a sick benefit of $5.00 per week and at death the sum of $100 is paid. There is also an extra benefit branch attached to the society, that is known as the "Extra Benefit Branch" of which the members may avail themselves by paying a small consideration each month. The society has one of the finest sets of club rooms in the city, having seven large rooms situated on the third floor of Palace Block, consisting of an elaborately furnished parlor, a library, meeting room, smoking room, pool and card rooms and a room for the officers, and on these is exercised great care in fitting for the comfort and enjoyment of the members. A number of private social events are given each year. Of these the most notable is their anniversary, celebrated with a ball and banquet usually on the first Friday of January. On different occasions they have given public entertainments, the entire proceeds going to public or charitable institutions; and they have cared for and practically maintained for a number of years the free ice water fountain in front of Palace Block. Besides their rooms, the society has a valuable piece of land on West Main street, with a frontage of 110 feet and a depth of 125 feet and has also a comfortable balance in the bank.

AMARANTH CLUB.

An organization which has for some years figured prominently in Meriden social life is the Amaranth Club, incorporated in 1895, occupying commodious and handsomely furnished quarters in the Cahill Block. This social club has now a resident membership of 125 and possesses fifteen non-resident members. Its objects are the promotion of sociability and friendship; and the organization is distinctively cosmopolitan, good fellowship and respectability being the necessary requisites for membership.

The formation of this popular social club dates back to January 19, 1893. The first quarters comprised the three rooms previously occupied by the Young Men's German-American Club, in the Wilcox Block, the furnishings and rental of the rooms being the same year purchased entire. The first officers were: President, A. W. Tracy; vice-president, John A. Hurley;



PARLOR, AMARANTH CLUB.



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

READING ROOM, AMARANTH CLUB.

secretary, T. E. Reynolds and treasurer, James J. Landrigan. From the character of its membership the club has always been a growing and a prosperous one, and within two years it became apparent that larger quarters were needed. Upon the completion of the Cahill Block in 1895, the rooms in the Wilcox



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

BILLIARD AND CARD ROOM, AMARANTH CLUB.

block together with the furnishings of the club were disposed of, and at the same time the present rooms in the Cahill block were fitted up and furnished entirely new at a cost of about $2,500. This club enjoys an enviable reputation for hospitality, harmony and the good fellowship of its members. Its inaugural balls have been events long looked forward to and remembered. The club has in various other ways won distinction and success. Its summer outings have been invariably well attended and the only occasion when the local opera house, now destroyed by fire, was ever filled to its full seating capacity, during a regular theatrical performance, was when the Amaranth club brought a pleasurable theatrical attraction to Meriden and bought the privileges of the theatre outright. Many citizens of Meriden prominent in business and public life, including

several mayors, have been enrolled in the membership of the club.

The presidents of the club from the beginning have been as follows: Dr. A. W. Tracy, Thos. L. Reilly, now mayor of Meriden; John A. Hurley, James J. Walsh and George H. O'Malley, the last named being the present incumbent. The other officers of the club are vice-president, James J. Niland; financial secretary, James J. Walsh; recording secretary, F. A. Lajoie; and treasurer, James J. Landrigan. The board of governors comprises the following: Dr. A. W. Tracy, chairman; M. F. Fitzgerald, H. T. Downs, C. W. Cahill, Kenneth Hillard, M. F. Morrissey, Wm. Gleason, Fred. Eginton, Dennis Horgan, E. T. Mooney, C. E. Flynn, W. E. Kavanaugh.

The house committee is N. J. St. Cyr, T. J. Hagerty, Dr. M. F. Sullivan, W. H. Russell, A. E. Cope, Thos. L. Reilly and Howard Island. The auditors are as follows. W. H. Russell, L. P. Fagan and F. A. Lajoie.

EAST SIDE SOCIAL CLUB.

As is indicated by its name, this social club is located in the eastern part of Meriden and its building is situated at the corner of East Main and Murray streets. This club owes its existence to the untiring efforts of the following young men of the town: Simon J. Cahill, Jeremiah A. Lynch, John W. Cahill, Daniel Lynch, Patrick J. Cahill, John L. Coleman, John H. Cook, Charles Murray, Alfred J. Cook and Jeremiah Rohan. It was nearly a score of years ago that these young men realized the desirability of drawing the young men together in that section of the town for the promotion of social intercourse, intellectual and literary improvement and recreation. For the further purpose of making good citizens of themselves a meeting was called under the branches of a historic elm tree which then beautified that locality. The result was the appointment of a committee to consider the matter and report at the next meeting to be held at the same place the first of the following October, 1888. This committee reported favorably and as a result the club was given birth and ten young men became its first members. The first officers were: president, John H. Cook; vice president, John L. Coleman; financial and recording secretary, Jeremiah A. Lynch; treasurer, Patrick J. Cahill, the last named being the present incumbent, having been annually re-elected ever since. The committee appointed to look up suitable quarters secured a lease of land from Waldo C. Twiss and upon it a club building was erected, the entire work of construction being done by the members, and two weeks after the organization of the club the rooms were ready for occu-

pancy and these were situated about 100 yards east of the present club house. Two years later when the membership had increased to twenty the club met its first misfortune, for at that time a disastrous fire totally destroyed their quarters. In consequence of this the club's progress was stayed for a time but later more up-to-date club house was a necessity. A building committee was appointed to procure land and submit plans for the erection of the same. The present site was chosen by the members upon the recommendation of that committee and the erection of the present spacious club house which became ready for



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

EAST SIDE SOCIAL CLUB.

and within six weeks after it had been decided upon, club house No. 2, larger than the former, became ready for occupancy. After six years' continued prosperity and pleasant associations of its members the club grew in membership until it was evident that a larger and occupancy in the fall of 1896, was immediately begun. December the same year a public reception was held in the rooms and the club was formally inspected by a large gathering including parents of the members and many prominent men of the city, at which time the mem-

bers were highly complimented for their creditable achievements and since that time the club has continued to grow in membership. In 1899 the club was incorporated under the laws of the state, receiving a charter from the legislature which entitles it to hold property to the value of $20,000. The membership now numbers sixty and this includes several of Meriden's successful business and professional men. It enjoys an enviable reputation for hospitality and this has been one of the most important factors in the prosperity and popularity of the organization.

Since its formation the following have served in the office of president. John H. Cook, Simon J. Cahill, Alfred J. Cook, John Gehring, Jr., Richard Rohan, John W. Cahill, David T. Keegan, Matt. F. Hanley, George A. Cook, Thomas J. O'Brien, Emmett E. Flanagan and J. Richard Geary. The present officers are J. Richard Geary, president; Michael B. Carroll, vice-president; John F. Semrau, recording secretary; Frank J. Conklin, financial secretary; Patrick J. Cahill, treasurer; Geo. A. Cook, business manager; Oswald D. Pepin, librarian; John F. Barry, warden; Frank A. Semrau, property manager; executive committee, Michael B. Carroll, Simon J. Cahill, Emmett E. Flanagan, Thomas F. O'Brien and Matt. F. Hanley.

BANKS, BOARD OF TRADE AND POST OFFICE

MERIDEN SAVINGS BANK.

In 1851 when the Meriden Savings Bank was incorporated Meriden was fast becoming a manufacturing center, small as it appears to us in 1906, but the wisdom, push and energy of those early business men was beginning to be felt and Meriden was taking on strength for the future. The wise ones saw the need of some institution for savings where the mechanic could deposit small amounts for safe keeping and also get money to build themselves homes; for it was a peculiar feature of Meriden at that time, as it has been since, that a majority of the working men lived in their own homes, and at that early period nearly all were native born. To meet the needs of the little growing village the business men held a meeting early in 1851 to consider plans and the outcome was the appointment of a committee to draw up resolutions incorporating The Meriden Savings Bank. These were presented at the May session of the General Assembly and the application granted by them, the certificate of incorporation being signed by John P. C. Mather, Secretary of State, July 12, A. D., 1851.

The trustees were as follows:

Enos H. Curtis, Edwin E. Curtis, Hiram Yale, Ashbel Griswold, Charles Parker, H. W. Saltonstall, Julius Pratt, Alfred P. Curtiss, Isaac C. Lewis, Noah Pomeroy, James A. Frary, Benjamin H. Catlin, Levi Yale, Bertrand Yale, A. C. Wetmore, Joel H. Guy, David N. Ropes, Howell Merriman, Elah Camp, Ward Coe, Linus Birdsey, Walter Booth and Curtis L. North.

The first meeting of the trustees was held at the Meriden Bank building on Broad street, then called North Market street, July 16, 1851, and the following officers were elected:

President—Enos H. Curtis.

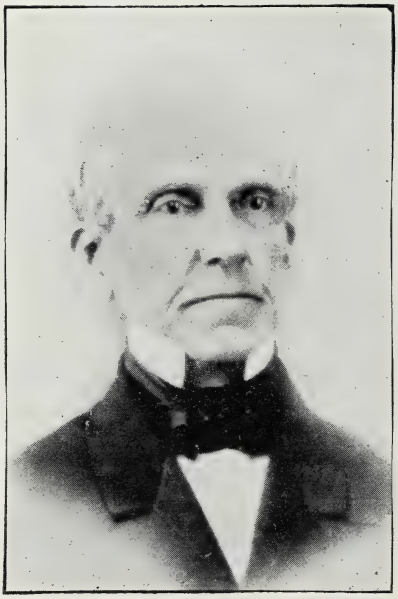
Vice-president—Benjamin H. Catlin.

Directors—Julius Pratt, Charles Parker, Levi Yale, Joel H. Guy, Edwin E. Curtis, Curtis L. North, David N. Ropes, Howell Merriman and Henry W. Saltonstall.

Joel H. Guy was the first secretary and treasurer.

The same year three vice-presidents were added to the list of officers, making four, as at present. The three added were Walter Booth, Elah Camp and Ashbel Griswold. The treasurer was authorized to appoint a clerk without extra expense; and he appointed Samuel B. Morgan. The

first attorney was Dexter R. Wright. The office of the bank was for about three years at the residence of the treasurer on West Main street, present number 34, but for the accommodation of the "up-town" people he



JOEL H. GUY.

was authorized to receive deposits at the Meriden Bank on Tuesdays of each week from two to four o'clock p. m.

The directors met once a week at the treasurer's residence for the first two years; but the time was soon changed to once a month. The first year the treasurer received fifty dollars for his services.

March 1, 1854, it was voted "to authorize the president and secretary to purchase a safe for the bank at an expense not exceeding one hundred dollars" and in April the same year it was voted to purchase ten or more shares of the stock of the Meriden Bank at one hundred and seven dollars per share, and in December of the same year it was voted to buy two shares at par.

Levi E. Coe was elected secretary and treasurer July, 1854, to succeed Joel H. Guy and the office of the bank was moved to the fine brick block called the Coe building, just then erected north of the Center church.



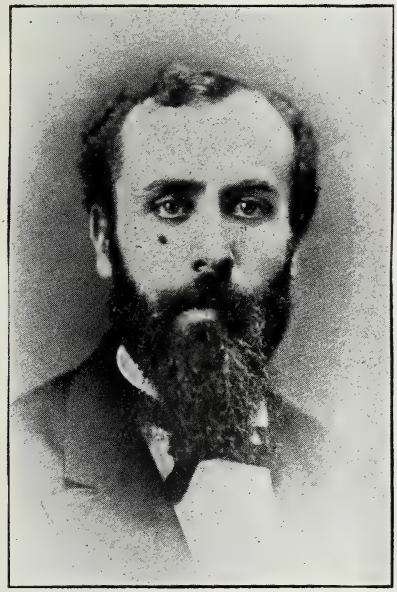
EDWIN E. CURTIS.

This building was torn down in 1894 and the street widened at that point.

Considering the condition of the country just before the war the following vote of the directors taken

February 4, 1861, is significant:

Voted, To loan the balance now in the treasury as the appraising committee shall think will best subserve the interests of the business community and the bank



S. H. W. YALE.

That the directors were patriotic is shown by the vote September, 1861, instructing the treasurer to buy treasury notes, U. S. sixes, at 97⅞ and 7-30 notes at par.

As business increased there was need of larger, more convenient and secure quarters of more central location, and the office was moved to the town clerk's office in the town hall in 1864, where the town vault could be utilized.

July, 1866, A. H. Curtis succeeded Levi E. Coe as treasurer, the latter being appointed a director. The late secretary and treasurer, S. H. W. Yale, became clerk the same year, business increasing so that the treasurer needed an assistant.

In 1868 is found an advertisement in the Meriden Republican stating that the deposits were then $500,000, and office hours 9 to 12 and 2 to 4.

The bank occupied the town clerk's office from 1864 to 1871 when it purchased the P. J. Clark property, cor-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

W. H. CATLIN.

ner of East Main and Veteran streets, for $16,000. The old buildings which for years previous had been used for the manufacture of tinware, were at once made into stores and tenements.

The Meriden Republican then began occupying the one on the corner and the bank the one west, having fitted up one side for an office, putting in a vault, etc. This modest frame building was used until 1882 when the present building was erected.

July 23, 1877, the faithful and well beloved treasurer, A. H. Curtis, died suddenly while talking with a friend in the bank. S. H. W. Yale then succeeded to the position of treasurer and W. H. Catlin entered as clerk.

The Meriden Savings Bank has had a healthy, continuous growth from the start and has met with but few losses, the only one of any moment was when the Wallingford tornado destroyed a number of houses on which it had mortgages.

In 1882 the frame building it had occupied since 1871 was moved to Veteran street, that asylum for old buildings, and the present brick block was built. The same year Edwin E. Curtis, who had been president since 1862, resigned and Levi E. Coe was elected president, he serving until his death November 2, 1903.

The present officers and trustees are as follows:

President—John L. Billard.

Vice-presidents—A. Chamberlain, Walter Hubbard, E. J. Doolittle and H. Wales Lines.

Directors—Benjamin Page, Homer A. Curtiss, Engene A. Hall, August Maschmeyer, George B. Murdock, Arthur S. Lane, Charles A. King, George M. Curtis and George E. Savage.

The board of directors consists of president, four vice-presidents, nine directors and secretary and treasurer.

Trustees—Linus Birdsey, Walter Hubbard, A. Chamberlain, John L. Billard, Edward Miller, H. Wales Lines, W. H. Catlin, Benjamin Page, E. J. Doolittle, John Morse, Maurice O'Brien, H. H. Miller, Homer A. Curtiss, Charles C. Glock, Eugene A. Hall, Arthur S. Lane, George B. Murdock, Charles A. King, August Maschmeyer, George E. Savage, George M. Curtis, Herman Hess, C. A. Learned, M. B. Schenck, C. W. Cahill, James P. Platt, Lewis A. Miller, William C. Comstock, Frank A. Stevens and Frank D. Smith.

Secretary and treasurer—W. H. Catlin.

Bookkeeper, John G. Nagel; clerk, Byron R. Gardner.

MERIDEN NATIONAL BANK.

This institution has an honored history, for it has served its purpose and served it well, for nearly three-quarters of the century which Meriden celebrates in 1906 as an incorporated town. Organized, as all banks were in those days, as a state bank, the charter was approved in June, 1833, and business was begun with a capital of $100,000, in a room in the dwelling house, on Broad street, of William Yale, but now owned by William B. Ives. The followng year a new brick building was erected on Broad street, which for many years after was the home of the old Meriden bank

and which is shown in the smaller of the accompanying illustrations. The first board of directors consisted of Silas Mix, Samuel Yale, Elisha A. Cowles, Stephen Taylor, Ashabel Griswold, James S. Brooks, Noah Pomeroy, John D. Reynolds and Walter Booth. Ashabel Griswold was the first president, and Francis King, cashier.

In 1836 the bank's capital was increased to $150,000 in order to keep pace with the business done and which was a success from the very start. General Walter Booth then became



OLD MERIDEN BANK BUILDING.

president and Harry Hayden was chosen cashier to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Francis King in 1837. After twelve years' faithful service as president, General Booth finally declined further re-election and Noah Pomeroy became the head, who in turn was followed by Joel H. Guy and Joel I. Butler, all of whom were famous in the history of the town. When Mr. Butler died, O. B. Arnold, the former cashier, became the president and he served until his regretted decease August 30, 1900. He was succeeded as president by Levi E. Coe and after his death by the present incumbent, George M. Clark, the former cashier, but who served many years previously as teller. In 1905 Mr. Clark was succeeded as cashier by W. M. Quested, formerly teller, who has since served as cashier. The capital stock of the bank in 1850 was increased to $250,000 and again, four years later, when it was made $300,000, but in 1901 was reduced to $200,000. While the business of the institution has always been conducted with success, as its comfortable surplus fund and regularly declared dividends indicate, this success has been the result of conservative management which has marked as well the history of all other Meriden financial institutions during the last half century or more. The Meriden Bank became nationalized in 1865 and again in 1905 its charter as such was renewed for twenty years by the government at Washington.

The present handsome quarters have been occupied since February 22, 1885, and after the bank had erected the large brick structure shown in the acpanying illustration and was first occupied on that date. The present quarters not only comprise modern, commodious, convenient banking rooms, but contain safety deposit boxes which are rented.

The officers and directors of the bank at this writing are: George M. Clark, president; Herman Hess, vice-president; W. M. Quested, cashier;



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PRESENT HOME OF THE MERIDEN NATIONAL BANK.

directors, John Ives, John L. Billard, George H. Wilcox, Seth J. Hall, George M. Clark, Herman Hess, Wilbur F. Parker, George E. Savage and Benjamin Page.

HOME NATIONAL BANK.

The Home National Bank, located at the corner of Colony and Church streets, is one of the most successful institutions of its kind. It has a long and honorable history, has connected with it leading financial and business men of the city and was chartered by the legislature as a state bank in 1854. The cause which led to its formation was principally a desire for a bank in the new center of business. The business men about the corner cordially supported the movement, favoring a new bank for "home benefit," as they put it, and E. G. Howe, F. H. Oakley, John C. Smith, Joseph Taylor and S. W. Kellogg, appointed to receive subscriptions, found no difficulty in placing the $100,000 of capital stock. August 8, 1855, the directors met and formally organized by electing S. W. Baldwin president and A. C. Wetmore secretary. The directors were Julius Pratt, S. W. Baldwin, Eli Butler, Henry C. Butler, James S. Brooks, Howell Merriman, A. C. Wetmore, James A. Frary and Fenner Bush. H. C. Young became the first cashier and served until September 7, 1857. During his time the business was carried on in the rooms of the Young Men's Institute in Collins' block, but later removed to the wooden building owned by Henry C. Butler, which stood on the site of the present bank. In 1858, the property was bought for $3,750. Soon after, they sold a portion of it for $3,000, so that their now valuable property cost them but $750. In 1863 the present commodious banking house was built, the old building being removed to West Main street.

In the meantime various changes in officers and capital stock had occurred and the bank had seen a period of great prosperity. May 1, 1856, Eli Butler had been elected to the presidency to succeed Mr. Baldwin, who resigned, and Samuel Dodd came from the City Bank in Hartford, where he had been teller, to assume the office of cashier. The following year, January 6, 1857, the capital was increased by $50,000, and two months later by $2,000 more, owing to the fact that the subscriptions to the increase had exceeded by that sum the amount required. In September, 1859, the rapid growth of the bank demanded another increase and the capital was accordingly raised to the sum of $300,000.

On December 24, 1864, it was voted to nationalize the bank and increase the capital to $400,000 and January 16, 1865, they were authorized to begin business as a National bank. The bank's history has been one of prosperity, excellent business judgment on the part of its officials and a rapid increase in deposits. In 1867, Mr. Dodd resigned as cashier and A. Chamberlain, then teller of the New Britain National Bank, and now president of this bank, was called to assume the office left va-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HOME NATIONAL BANK BUILDING.

cant. February 10, 1875, the capital of the bank was increased to $600,000. July 1, 1897, this was reduced to $400,000. Upon the death of Eli Butler, in 1881, Mr. Chamberlain was elected to the presidency and J. S. Norton, Jr., for fifteen years employed in the bank, eleven years as teller, became cashier. At the same time, C.



J. S. NORTON, JR.

S. Perkins, who had been in the employ of the bank eleven years, was elected teller.

The bank has now a capital stock of $400,000 and a surplus of $175,000. The directors and officers are composed of well-known men who have given it a careful and conservative management.

Directors: A. Chamberlain, Walter Hubbard, Samuel Dodd, Edward Miller, E. J. Doolittle, George M. Curtis, James H. White, I. L. Holt and Benjamin W. Collins.

The officers and clerks are: A. Chamberlain, president; E. J. Doolittle, vice-president; J. S. Norton, Jr., cashier; Charles H. Wood, teller; Louis Fisk, bookkeeper; Alfred M. Williams and Harold W. Scott, clerks.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

It was in 1863, when the growth of the town seemed to warrant it, that the First National Bank of Meriden was organized.

The bank's first place of business was in a small frame building located near the present brown stone building erected in 1872.

The late Joel H. Guy, one of the most reliable and able financiers of the city, was elected its first president. The first cashier was Wolcott A. Hull, who was succeeded, in 1870, by Charles L. Rockwell. The late John D. Billard succeeded to the presidency upon the death of Mr. Guy in 1881. At Mr. Billard's death in 1902 Mr. Rockwell, who had been cashier of the bank since 1870, was elected president, which office he now holds; and Floyd Curtis, formerly teller, was elected cashier, in which capacity he has since served. The present capital of the bank is $200,000 and its surplus is $300,000. The bank has long since taken its place among the leading banking institutions of the state. The

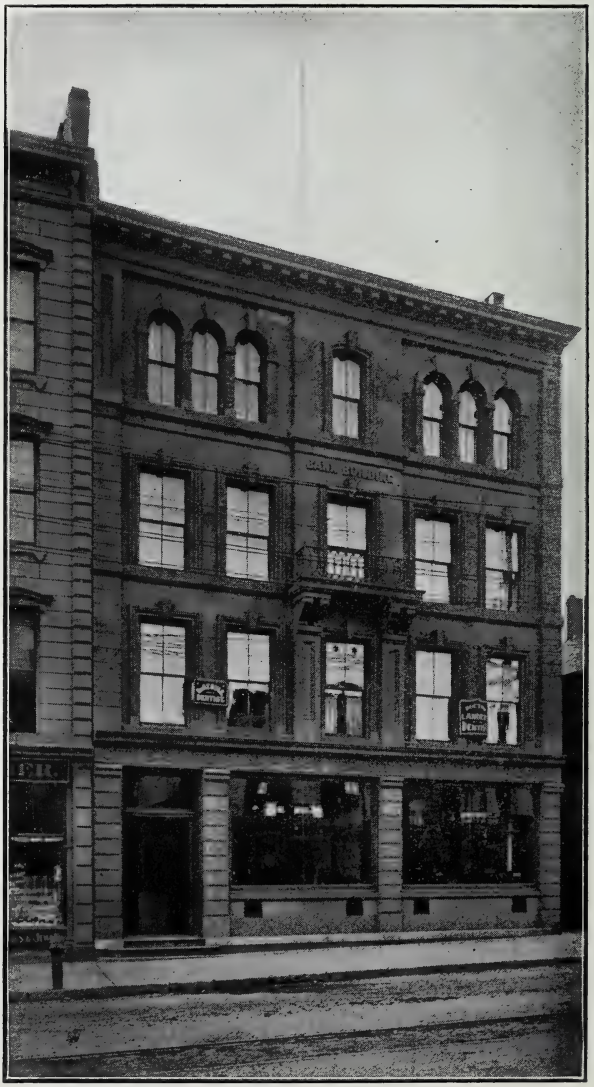


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING.

present directors are as follows: Charles F. Linsley, C. B. Rogers, W. H. Lyon, John Tait, John W. Coe, N. L. Bradley, Charles L. Rockwell, W. S. Billard and C. W. Cahill.

Floyd Curtis, cashier of the First National Bank, was born in Meriden December 25, 1854. He is a son of the late Harrison W. Curtis and attended public and private schools. At the age of sixteen he entered the em-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
FLOYD CURTIS.

ployment of the First National Bank. Gradually he earned promotion and on October 28, 1882, he was elected teller of the bank; and July 1, 1884, he was also elected treasurer of the City Savings Bank. Both of these offices he filled until February 11, 1902, when his election as cashier of the First National Bank made it necessary for him to resign them. Mr. Curtis has, therefore, been not only continuously engaged in banking affairs from the commencement of his business life, but has been associated with the First National Bank over thirty-six years. With his added duties for several years as the former secretary and treasurer of the Savings Bank, he has become one of the most familiar figures in local banking circles. He is also the present treasurer of the city of Meriden, an office of honor and trust he has held since 1899, and is one of the trustees of the City Savings Bank.

Mr. Curtis is treasurer of the finance committee organized for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the town of Meriden. He is also a member of Meriden Golf and Home clubs and prominent in social life. He is affiliated with Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M., and St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T. He is also a member of Pilgrims' Harbor Council, 543, Royal Arcanum.

He was married in 1879 to Clara H. Furniss, and to that union there is now living one daughter, Bessie F., who in 1902 married Harry C. Lane, of Westfield, Mass.

CITY SAVINGS BANK.

The City Savings Bank was organized in 1874, the incorporators being Joel H. Guy, Charles L. Upham, John

C. Byxbee, Jared R. Cook, John D. Billard, John Tait, H. L. Schleiter, George W. Smith, William H. Miller, A. C. Wetmore, Ratcliffe Hicks, J. S. Wightman, Randolph Linsley, William Lewis, E. B. Everitt and Gilbert Rogers.

The first president was Joel H. Guy, who for many years held an honored position in the history of banking affairs in Meriden. Upon the death of Mr. Guy, in 1881, John D. Billard, one of the most trustworthy and conservative business men of the city and greatly beloved by all who knew him, was elected to the presidency. Upon his death, in 1902, Charles L. Rockwell, who had been the treasurer of the bank, was elected president, which office he now holds. Floyd Curtis was elected secretary and treasurer in 1884 but resigned in 1902 to accept the cashiership of the First National Bank. To fill the vacancy George M. Lucas was elected secretary and treasurer and these offices he now holds.

At the present writing the number of depositors is 5,000 and the deposits of the bank aggregate $3,500,000.

The trustees of the bank are as follows: H. L. Schleiter, C. L. Rockwell, Seth J. Hall, Charles F. Linsley, Floyd Curtis, George M. Lucas, Ratcliffe Hicks, W. S. Billard, Clarence P. Bradley, Dexter W. Parker, N. L. Bradley, Edward Miller, Jr., John C. Byxbee, William H. Lyon, C. F. Rockwell, Charles L. Upham, John W. Coe, John Tait, Gilbert Rogers, C. B. Rogers, J. H. White, George H. Wilcox, W. J. Robinson and Charles T. Dodd.

MERIDEN TRUST & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.

This company, whose usefulness to the town of Meriden and vicinity is all its name implies, was organized under a special charter granted by the legislature of the state of Connecticut in 1889. The original incorporators were Walter Hubbard, Isaac C. Lewis, John L. Billard, Charles F. Linsley and Charles L. Rockwell. The first board of directors was composed of the following: Walter Hubbard, Charles F. Linsley, Nathaniel L. Bradley, Isaac C. Lewis, Charles Parker, John D. Billard, George R. Curtis, John L. Billard and Charles L. Rockwell. Isaac C. Lewis was the first president, and upon his death in 1893, Walter Hubbard was elected to fill the vacancy, which office he now holds. Charles L. Rockwell has been the treasurer since the organization of the company, and Harry H. Smith is the present secretary of the company.

The company, by its charter, is authorized to act as executor, administrator, guardian, trustee or receiver of estates and is also authorized to accept and execute any and all trusts that may be committed to its care by persons or corporations or by the direction of any court of probate or other legally constituted authority in this state or elsewhere. From the wide scope of its operations, the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company is filling a long felt want in this community and is indispensable as a place of safety for the deposit of securities and

valuables of all kinds. The vaults of the company are of the most approved pattern, constructed of the best and safest material and are absolutely safe against fire or burglary. The directors of the company are Walter Hubbard, Charles L. Rockwell, George M. Curtis, John L. Billard, Charles F. Linsley and N. L. Bradley.

MERIDEN BOARD OF TRADE.

Meriden is possessed of an energetic board of trade, composed of worthy citizens and men whose influence has been exerted with good results toward the betterment of the town. The following men of Meriden comprised the first officers and directors: Charles L. Upham, president; H. Wales Lines and Samuel Dodd, vice-presidents; Eli C. Birdsey, secretary; I. L. Holt, treasurer; directors, Francis Atwater, N. L. Bradley, John L. Billard, Eli C. Birdsey, John W. Coe, C. W. Cahill, Homer A. Curtiss, Samuel Dodd, E. J. Doolittle, George L. Ellsbree, H. Wales Lines, William H. Lyon, John S. Lane, Edward Miller, Charles L. Rockwell, John A. Hurley, August Schmelzer, M. B. Schenck, George H. Wilcox and Charles L. Upham.

The organization of the Board of Trade, which occurred in July, 1897, was met with much enthusiasm on the part of the business men of the town, and not long after the first meeting, which was held in the Town hall, December 18, 1895, the Board of Trade numbered 325 members. During the first few years of its existence many expected that Meriden would immediately be possessed of numerous new factories, and the rapid building up of the town, and the first president was loyally supported with that aim in view. The first creditable effort was the assistance rendered the people of Southington in devising ways and means for building the electric tramway, now running between Meriden, Southington and Lake Compounce, which has brought thousands of dollars annually to Meriden merchants. The committee appointed by the Board of Trade, to bring about this happy result consisted of Francis Atwater, then a director of the Board of Trade, but later made president, who, with John A. Hurley, another director, promoted the company which, since its organization, has been conducted with success.

While there have been times in the history of the local Board of Trade when its membership has been reduced, there have always been a few active workers within its ranks; and at the present time its membership is 100. The propositions listened to by the Board of Trade from concerns who would, if they could, locate in Meriden, but many of whom were not desirable, have been almost numberless.

In conducting their investigations the members of the Board of Trade, have spent freely of their time and money without regard for personal gain. In 1905 the board accomplished its crowning achievement, securing the



MERIDEN, LOOKING NORTH FROM TOWN HALL

thriving industry now carried on by the Meriden Fire Arms Co., by raising among the citizens about $10,000 in a single day. The Board of Trade has been of value to Meriden, not only in trying to induce desirable industries to locate here, but in keeping undesirable industries away; it has improved the freight service, caused all express trains to be stopped here and accomplished other achievements, all of which have been of benefit to the business man and the resident.

Francis Atwater was chosen president in 1898 and served until January 1, 1905, since which time, the officers of the Board of Trade have been as follows: President, Charles H. Tredennick; vice-presidents, Eugene A. Hall and Frank D. Smith; secretary, F. A. Stevens; treasurer, I. L. Holt; directors, Eli C. Birdsey, H. Wales Lines, Francis Atwater, E. J. Doolittle, M. B. Schenck, George H. Wilcox, F. A. Stevens, D. L. Bishop, W. P. Bristol, Eugene A. Hall, A. J. Fletcher, A. Schmelzer, Col. C. L. Upham, Henry E. Bushnell, George S. Seeley, Frank D. Smith, C. H. Tredennick, Herman Hess, Henry C. Bibeau and Leroy C. Pardee.

MERIDEN POST OFFICE.

When in 1806 Meriden was set apart from the town of Wallingford Amos White was named by President Jefferson as the first postmaster. The post office was located in a one-story building, owned by Partrick Lewis, situated on the southeast corner of Broad and East Main streets, on the property now owned by Eli C. Birdsey. Mr. White served for several years. He was succeeded by Partrick Lewis, who served until 1828. In this year President Jackson appointed Levi Yale postmaster, who transferred the office from its previous location of twenty-two years, to the building now known as No. 641 Broad street. Mr. Yale served through part of the two administrations of Jackson and through all of Van Buren's, or about twelve years in all.

Richard N. Dowd was appointed postmaster by President William Henry Harrison in 1841, but he died after being in office about six months. President Tyler, during the same year, appointed Walter Booth postmaster, who held the office for three years and six months. Ira N. Yale, cousin of the late B. L. Yale, was appointed postmaster by President Polk in 1845, but died after holding office about three years. Almeron Miles, father of the late Wallace A. Miles, was appointed postmaster by President Polk in 1848 to succeed Mr. Yale. Mr. Miles resigned the office after the election, but before the inauguration of President Taylor, having served less than a year. Hiram Hall, half brother of Walter B. Hall, was next appointed postmaster by President Taylor. He served for two years, covering about four months under Polk and about twenty months under Taylor.

Up to this time the post office had remained in the Levi Yale building.



WEST MAIN STREET FROM CORNER OF COLONY.

Under Mr. Hall it was transferred to a little frame building built specially for the post office. This building stood then just north of the Bassett block on Broad street and now stands on land of B. L. Yale estate on Wall street east of the Catholic cemetery.

Following Mr. Hall, Asahel H. Curtis was appointed postmaster, and served through Fillmore's term or about three years. The election of President Pierce brought about the appointment as postmaster in 1853 of Hiram Hall for the second time. Mr. Hall died after serving about one year. Mr. Hall had his office in a wooden building adjoining the John Ives residence on Broad street. This building was afterwards moved to View street and later was demolished. Upon the death of Mr. Hall, President Pierce appointed Bertrand L. Yale postmaster, who served for seven years, three under Pierce and four under Buchanan. Mr. Yale held his office in the old Levi Yale building already spoken of. When Abraham Lincoln was president, Asahel H. Curtis was for a second time appointed postmaster. He served until Mr. Lincoln's death, but resigned his office under President Johnson. Mr. Curtis' office was located in the old Franklin Hall building, on the now vacant corner north of the Congregational church, Broad street.

In 1865 Linus Birdsey was appointed postmaster by President Johnson to succeed Mr. Curtis. Mr. Birdsey, who served for three years, transferred the post office to the brick building that formerly stood on the site of the first post office at the southeast corner of Main and Broad streets. Lon R. Hall was appointed postmaster by President Grant in 1869. Mr. Hall transferred the post office back to the building from which Mr. Birdsey had taken it, and then, after a few years, took it across the street to John Ives' store in the brick block now known as No. 489 Broad street. Mr. Hall served seven years, and then resigned, when he was succeeded by his brother, William F. Hall, who was appointed by President Hayes. Mr. Hall moved the post office to the building known as 320 East Main street, where Station A is now located. On September 1, 1880, the Meriden post office, the then official designation of the up-town office, was abolished and made a branch of the down-town post office, which up to that date officially was known as the West Meriden post office. In the changed capacity of clerk of Main street branch, W. F. Hall, under Postmaster E. D. Hall, of the down-town office, from that time officially designated the Meriden office, continued to serve the branch office until 1886. Linus Birdsey in the same year, under appointment from Postmaster W. H. Miller, again assumed charge of the up-town office, this time as clerk of the station, and served until 1890. Massena F. Ballou was appointed as clerk of the station March 1, 1894, and served until his death, when on April 1, 1894, he was followed by his daughter, Mrs. A. A. B. Twiss, who in turn, on November 1, 1894, was fol-

lowed by Miss Ida L. Miller, the present incumbent.

It was about 1844, that the business men and residents in that portion of the town then known as West Meriden agitated the matter of having a post office of their own. The result was the establishment, during 1845, of the West Meriden post office. Joel H. Guy was named by President Polk as the first postmaster, and the first post office stood just east of the Guy residence on the south side of West Main street.

The election of Zachary Taylor brought about a change in 1849, when Noah A. Linsley was appointed postmaster. Mr. Linsley had his office in the wooden building now owned by Frederick J. Wheeler, on the north side of the street, known as 21 West Main street.

In 1853, soon after the inauguration of President Pierce, Joel H. Guy again received a postmaster's commission. The office was taken back again to the south side of West Main street. Mr. Guy continued in office this time about five years, when he gave way to his son-in-law, Samuel B. Morgan. Mr. Morgan transferred the office to quarters which stood on the present site of the First National Bank building.

Soon after President Lincoln's inauguration in 1861, George W. Rogers was appointed postmaster. The office was immediately moved to the brick structure which stood on the east side of Colony street, corner of Main street. This building was destroyed by fire during Mr. Rogers' term, and the office was taken to the room in the Butler building, 13 Colony street, now occupied by W. W. Mosher.

On August 8, 1865, President Johnson appointed Wallis Bull postmaster, and with this appointment there began a quarrel between the friends of Wallis Bull and the adherents of George W. Rogers, which hotly interested more than half the population of the town.

On August 31, 1866, thirteen months after Mr. Bull took office, his enemies succeeded in bringing about his removal and in having Mr. Rogers restored to office. Mr. Rogers transferred the office in August, 1867, to the north room in the old Byxbee block, known as 37 Colony street, now occupied by W. H. Squire. Thirteen months after Mr. Rogers had taken office, namely on September 23, 1867, his enemies triumphed with President Johnson and Samuel B. Morgan was for the second time made postmaster. Mr. Morgan served this time for twenty months, when on May 17, 1869, the friends of Wallis Bull prevailed with the administration and secured for him his second commission as postmaster.

Mr. Bull served the second time for eight years lacking two months, when on February 24, 1877, he was removed by President Grant, and Erwin D. Hall appointed. In 1878 Mr. Hall transferred the office to the formerly well-known Hill building which stood temporarily on the plot of ground now known as Winthrop Square. The Hill building now stands on the premises known as 289 Center street. In the spring of 1880 the post office was

moved to the Wilcox block at 24 Colony street.

Under political pressure Mr. Hall resigned his office February 1, 1886, and was succeeded by William H. Miller, who served until February 1, 1890, when he was followed by Henry Dryhurst, who received his commission from President Harrison.

On August 1, 1894, John J. Anderson became postmaster, by appointment of President Cleveland, and served until August 1, 1898. He was succeeded by Henry Dryhurst, who received his second appointment from President McKinley, and his third from President Roosevelt.

The Meriden office entered the first class July 1, 1890. On May 20, 1899, the post office removed to its present quarters at 25 and 27 Colony street.

The letter carrier service was established in Meriden September 1, 1880. The first four men constituting the force were William H. Minchin, Albert L. Bartlett, Charles Allemeyer and Chauncey G. Johnson. The number of carriers now employed (June 1, 1906) is twenty and of clerks eighteen.

Besides Station A, there are six substations. The annual receipts this year were $75,000.

In 1902 the congress appropriated $100,000 for a federal building for the Meriden post office. The site at the corner of Colony and Brooks streets was purchased at a cost of $20,500. All bids for the new building were rejected because excessive; and a bill for an additional appropriation for the building is now pending in the congress.

NEWSPAPERS

THE JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

No clearer knowledge can be briefly gleaned of a city than by a glance at its newspapers. If they be prosperous, pushing and enterprising, they but indicate the spirit of the community in which they are produced and its progressiveness is marked in their pages. It is true that they may create and lead in those things which make for the best progress of a municipality, but to become successful in progression, there must be an appreciation shown in a willingness on the part of the public to encourage such leadership with sufficient patronage to make its continuance possible.

It is this condition existing in Meriden which has made of The Meriden Daily Journal one of the leading papers not only in the state, but in New England, and permitted its owners, The Journal Publishing Company, to build up one of the largest publishing and printing houses in the New England states.

Early in 1886 it became apparent that there was an opening for a new evening daily newspaper in Meriden and as a result The Journal Publishing Company was incorporated on April 2 of that year, for the purpose of publishing The Meriden Daily Journal and to carry on a general printing and publishing business. In those days when mechanical equipment was limited, only hundreds of dollars were required in the production of a newspaper where now thousands must be invested, and therefore the new company started business with but $8,000 capital.

It was shortly after this, however, that the great advance in methods due to demands for the quicker and better production of newspapers began, and costly machinery, and the growth of the business, required greater investments until the capital was increased to $60,000 and then to $67,000. This capital and the surplus in the business of The Journal Publishing Company to-day represents an investment of nearly $200,000. Its business has correspondingly enlarged with its increased investment and facilities, a very great share of its patronage coming from outside Meriden.

When the company was formed in 1886, four men held all the stock and became its officers. These same men, elected at the first meeting, are still its directors and officers and are all actively engaged in the conduct of its affairs. They are Francis Atwater, president; Lewis Allen, vice-president; Thomas L. Reilly, secretary, and Frank E. Sands, treasurer.

When the company began business quarters were secured on the second floor of Russell's (now the Meriden Grain & Feed Company's) block, on South Colony street, and from there The Meriden Daily Journal made its first appearance on the afternoon of April 17, 1886, as a four-page paper, with seven columns to the page. The patronized and highly prosperous paper and is still growing. It has been changed and enlarged frequently, as the demand upon its advertising or news columns required more space.

The first change came in December, 1886, when it was enlarged by adding a column in width. The following April the pressure on its col-



BUSINESS OFFICE, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

success of the new daily was assured from the very start, and from that day it has continued to grow and advance, until now it goes not only into nearly every home in Meriden, but has reached out into the adjoining towns and implanted itself firmly in those fields. It is a widely read, largely

umns required more room, and still another column was added. It continued in this form until the year following, when, on May 7, 1888, it first appeared as an eight-page paper, six columns to the page, and cut, folded and pasted.

In the meantime, the printing bus-

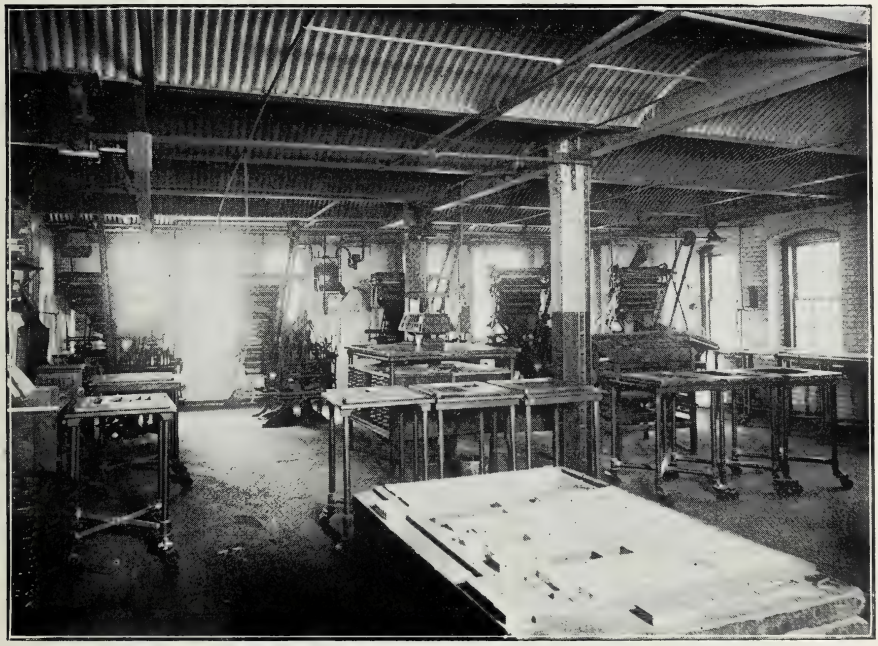
iness had kept pace with the growth of the newspaper, and during February, 1888, a book bindery was added, the third floor of Russell's block being taken for the purpose. The quarters were totally inadequate to the demands of the business by this time, and in October the large three-story building, owned by Morse & Cook, at the junction of Perkins and South Colony street was leased, and a change made to that building after extensive alterations had been made. Here was found room for the much needed additional machinery. To add to the ability of the company to turn out the book work in its mechanical department, on March 7, 1889, they bought the business of Charles E. Bibeau and Richard A. Owen, who had conducted a prosperous printing establishment under the firm name of Owen & Bibeau, and Mr. Owen became foreman of The Journal's book and job printing department while Mr. Bibeau took charge of the press room.



DIRECTORS' ROOM, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

During this time the entire method in the production of newspapers and books was undergoing a great change. The invention of fast web presses requiring sterotype plates, linotype machines that displaced hand compositors, and other machinery for the more rapid making of newspapers to fill

constantly increasing demands and quick growth, were coming in, and when again in a short time the facilities were found totally inadequate, a contract was made with the Goss Printing Press Company to design and build for The Journal a web perfecting press, with a capacity of 12,000 complete eight-page papers per hour. of erecting the present four-story fireproof Journal building was begun. It was attended with great difficulties, as all the departments had to be kept at work in the old building while the new one was constructed around it and the old one afterward torn out piecemeal. The new building was built entirely of brick, iron and concrete. The out-



NEWS COMPOSING ROOM, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

The Journal was first printed on it November 29, 1889.

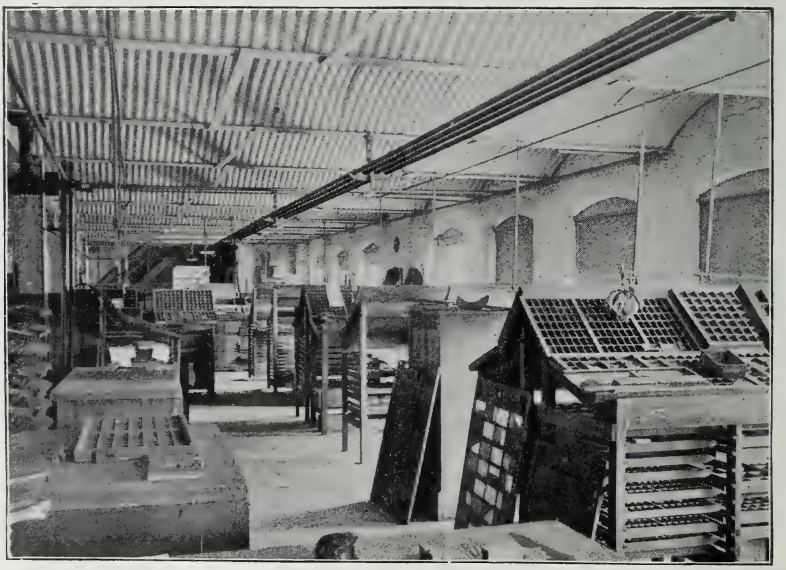
In October, 1890, the store at 27 East Main street, was leased and fitted up as business offices and connected with The Journal building in the rear. In 1890 the property was bought of Morse & Cook and in 1892, the work

er walls are of brick and the beams and girders of iron, while the floors are of concrete over corrugated iron arches. The partitions are all of pressed iron, the only wood being the window frames and roof girders, the latter carrying a steel roof. It is designed to be as nearly fireproof as it

is possible to make such a building. During the time of the building and preceding it, The Journal Publishing Company had absorbed and added to its plant the business of other concerns in allied trades, the most important being in 1891, when the large electrotyping plant of D. S. Griswold was purchased and moved into the building.

since been built and installed for The Journal a big double deck straight line Goss Perfecting Press capable of producing 25,000 papers per hour.

From four pages The Journal has grown to twelve pages with from sixteen to twenty pages on Saturdays and special occasions. It enjoys a splendid patronage, practically every leading advertiser in the country being



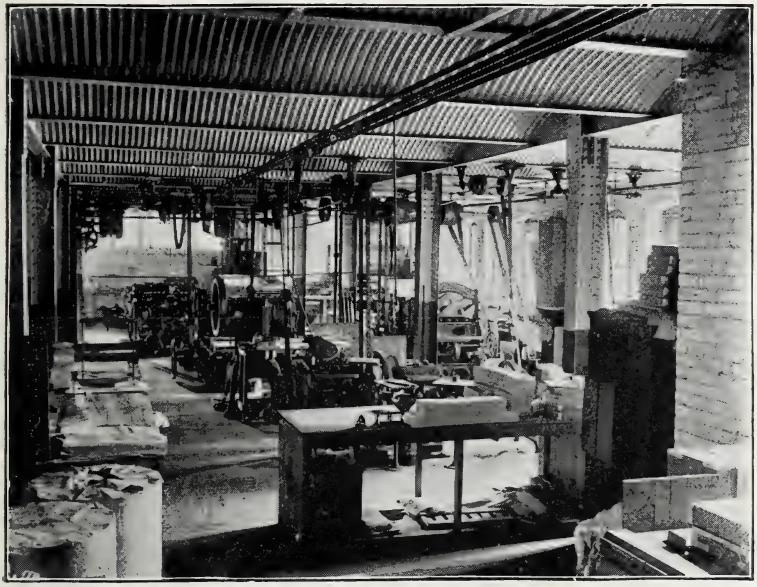
BOOK AND JOB COMPOSING ROOM.

At no time since its formation has the company ceased to progress and grow and the energy of its officers and the splendid force of assistants is shown to-day in the position The Journal occupies in and outside the community and the large patronage the other departments enjoy.

The press that was ample in 1889 soon became too small and there has

represented in its columns in addition to every important local advertiser. It is recognized as one of the handsomest and most complete newspapers produced anywhere with the result that its circulation has showed a steady increase each year.

The Journal's big establishment is divided into distinct departments, each under a separate head. Richard A.



PRESS ROOM, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.



BOOK BINDERY, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

Owen is superintendent with direct charge of the job and book departments: W. H. Marshall has charge of the press room, E. H. Hitchcock of the electrotyping, J. J. Walsh of the news composing, E. C. Parry of the linotype machines and Henry Minkwitz, of the sterotyping room.

Messrs. Allen and Reilly of the Allen and Lewis Reilly, city reporters, M. F. Clark, Publishers' Press operator; Miss Annie M. Whalen, proof reader, and W. R. Gilbert, M. S. McKiernan and Mrs. Elizabeth Lyon, suburban reporters.

The business office staff besides Mr. Atwater, publisher, and Mr. Sands, business manager, consists of Jesse



ELECTROTYPING DEPARTMENT, JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

company devote their time to the editorial end of the paper, and Messrs. Atwater and Sands to the business department.

The editorial force besides Mr. Allen, editor-in-chief, and Mr. Reilly, associate editor, is composed of the following: E. B. Whitney, city editor; D. T. Lamb, telegraph editor; Walter Sands, advertising department; J. Frank Morris, advertising agent; John F. Penders, circulation manager, Miss Margaret Hopkins, bookkeeper; Miss Sophia Huber, clerk and assistant bookkeeper, and Arthur Keenan, clerk.

All told, The Journal employs about sixty hands, many of whom have been

with the company for years and whose services are, naturally, highly valued.

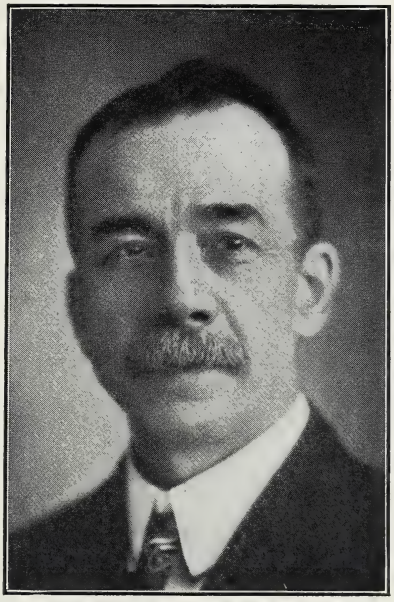
The products of The Journal press include many notable books, not the least of which is this volume, "A Century of Meriden."

MERIDEN MORNING RECORD.

The Record, Meriden's only morning newspaper, enjoys the distinction of being the oldest newspaper in the city, the Republican, which it absorbed in 1899, having been established in 1860. A few years prior to the absorption of the Republican by the Record, William A. Kelsey acquired the controlling interest in the Republican Publishing Company, and the merger was the result of his business acumen and far-sightedness. With the Evening Republican out of the field, Meriden was left with two strong, well established newspapers; the Record in the morning, the Journal in the evening.

Prior to the time Mr. Kelsey identified himself with the Republican Publishing Company, it had conducted a general job printing and book-binding business. Mr. Kelsey soon decided to abandon these branches to enable the directors of the business to devote their entire energies to the Morning Record. With the obstacles to its progress removed, the Record went ahead steadily day by day, and is now recognized as one of the foremost, most influential and substantial morning newspapers in Connecticut.

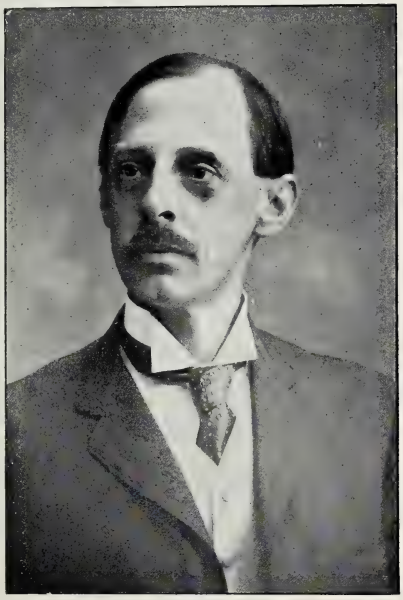
Early in 1905 The Republican Publishing Company, which is the corporate name of the Morning Record, purchased the valuable site on the corner of Crown and Perkins streets, and began the erection thereon of the substantial building which is now the home of the Morning Record. A mammoth, two-deck press was ordered from the Potter Printing Press Company, of Plainfield, N. J., and installed a few months later, after the completion of the building in September, 1905. A large amount of other new machinery was purchased, making the Record plant unsurpassed in its ability to produce a first-class, modern newspaper.



WILLIAM A. KELSEY.


RECORD
MERIDEN MORNING RECORD
1860
1905

The Record is a member of that great, world-wide news-gathering organization, The Associated Press, thus giving its readers all the news of the world at the earliest possible moment. It gives unusually careful attention to



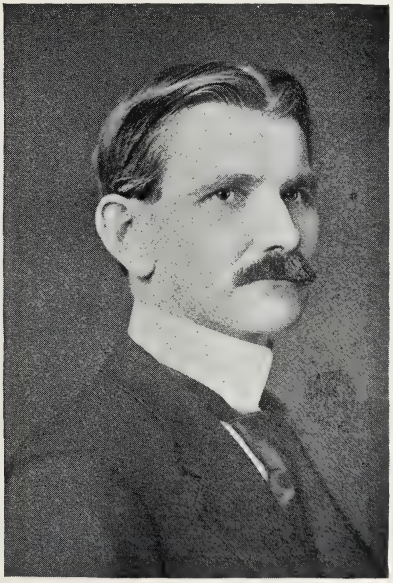
EDWIN E. SMITH.

the gathering of local news, personal items, etc., and is a complete newspaper in every sense.

The Record has always been essentially a family paper and has a very large circulation in the homes of Meriden and all of the surrounding towns. The Record's advertising patronage is very large; it includes all of the principal business houses of Meriden, and the great majority of the leading general advertisers of the country.

Among the factors that have won large success for the Record are unflagging energy, fair treatment to all in business matters and in its news columns, enterprise in anticipating the wants of its readers, not only in news matters, but in originating features that appeal to the people generally.

Associated with William A. Kelsey in the conduct of the Record are Edwin E. Smith, at the head of the business and finances, and Thomas H. Warnock of the editorial and news departments. Both of these men, like Mr. Kelsey, are natives of Meriden



THOMAS H. WARNOCK.

and loyal advocates of every cause that stands for the city's advancement. The large financial interests of these three gentlemen in the Record, assures its loyalty solely to the welfare of

Meriden and their fellow-citizens at all times.

The Company's paid-in capital is $75,000.00. W. A. Kelsey is president; E. E. Smith, vice-president and publisher; T. H. Warnock, editor. The directors are: W. A. Kelsey, E. E. Smith, T. H. Warnock, N. L. Bradley, J. L. Billard, W. H. Lyon and W. W. Mosher.

CHURCHES.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This time honored church organization which, previous to 1806, was by law the predominating power in the affairs of the town, as is told at length in the first section of this volume by George M. Curtis, still occupies a leading position in the spiritual and social life of Meriden. The present edifice, a remarkably attractive and imposing stone structure, was dedicated April 2, 1879, but some few meetings were held therein previous to its dedication. The corner stone was laid June 8, 1876, and the cost of the building was about $175,000.

The completion of the church after having been in process of construction for over two years was a source of much joy to its members, and from that time to the present the society has experienced a steady growth in membership and influence. The first sermon in the present church was preached by Rev. Thomas A. Miles, who afterwards supplied the pulpit of the church from April, 1879 to April, 1881. Other divines who afterwards filled the pulpit but were not installed as pastors were Rev. Llewellyn Pratt who served a year and ten months, and until December, 1883; Rev. Charles H. Everest, who remained for nine months from October 1, 1884 to July 1, 1885; and Rev. Charles H. Williams who presided over the church for three years from 1886-89. Rev. Asher Anderson, January 31, 1890, was then installed as regular pastor and served in that capacity until November 30, 1901. Rev. Albert J. Lord the present pastor after having filled the pulpit from December 4, 1902, was installed January 27, 1903. During its history the church has had two assistant pastors. The first was John W. Logan, now Y. M. C. A. secretary at Hyde Park, Mass., and Rev. F. W. Hazen, the present assistant pastor.

The First Congregational Church is not only a most attractive and substantial house of worship but it comprises one of most modern equipment. The latest acquisition, and operated through the organ by electricity, is a costly set of chimes, the only set of its kind in the city, presented to the church by the White families in memory of the late Edward H. and Howard White. These chimes, twenty in number, first gave forth their tuneful melodies on Easter Sunday of the present year, and the church became equipped with them unbeknown to its members. The growth of the church in membership within the past decade, during which

time a large number have also gone to other cities, and many other members removed by death, is shown by the following figures: the total enrolled membership in 1896 was 688, and the total enrolled membership to date is about 900. The Sunday school comprises 530 members, and of this Rev. F. W. Hazen, the assistant pastor, is the present superintendent. The trustees of the corporation are George H. Wilcox, Arthur E. Hall and Robert W. Carter; clerk, Albert H. Wilcox, and the treasurer, Byron R. Gardner. The church deacons are W. H. Catlin, Arthur S. Lane, H. D. Beebe,



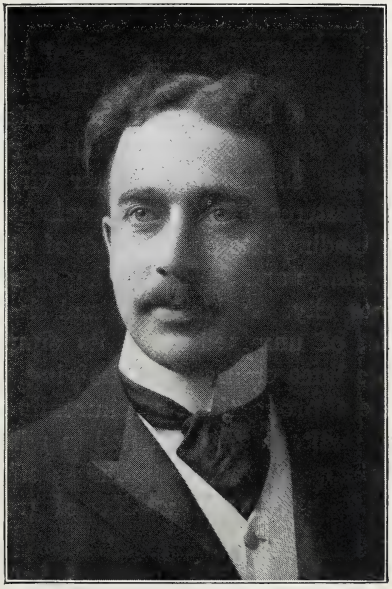
Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A. B. Savage, C. H. Pinks, Erastus Hubbard and Homer A. Curtiss.

The First Congregational church wields a mighty influence both at home and abroad, and many thriving societies have been formed within the edifice, all of which are in a flourishing condition. Including those organized during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Lord the church is possessed of the following prominent societies: Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor; Junior Christian Endeavor; The Foreign Missionary Auxiliary, Mrs. F. E. Hinman, president; Ladies' Benevolent Society, Mrs. Emily H. Johnson, chairman, and the following directors: Mrs. Charles F. Linsley, Mrs. Wilbur F. Davis, Mrs. Geo. E. Savage, Mrs. Arthur S. Lane, Mrs. Chas. L. Lyon, Mrs. W. H. Squire, Mrs. John Q. Thayer and Mrs. George H. Wilcox; Guardian Society, Mrs. H. W. Seip, president; the Dorcas Society of young women, Miss Agnes Augur, president; Granite League of young men, eighty members, Allen Yale, president; the Cheerful Givers, composed of girls, Annie Ives, leader; Order of Knights of King Arthur, Stanley White as Merlin; and Boys' Cadets, thirty members, Wm. B. Blanchard of Co. L, C. N. G., drill master.

Rev. Albert Jones Lord was born at Ellsworth, Me., October 1, 1868, and was educated at the high school of his native town, and was graduated at Bowdoin College, where he pursued his academic course, in 1894. He studied for the ministry at the Theological Seminary at Andover, Mass., from which he was graduated in 1897. During his theological course he filled several pulpits, and notably that of the Berkeley Temple, Boston, where he was for a time assistant pastor, and also at the Highland Congregational church, Roxbury, Mass. He was ordained a clergyman Oct. 19, 1897, and the following July was installed pastor of the Congregational church at Hartford, Vt., where he remained until he received a call from the First Congregational church of Meriden. Since coming to this city the church has greatly prospered financially, spiritually and socially.



REV. A. J. LORD.

Mr. Lord was married in Ellsworth, Me., Dec. 29, 1897, to Maude Evelyn Phillips, and one child, Phillips Haynes Lord, has blessed that union.

THE CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

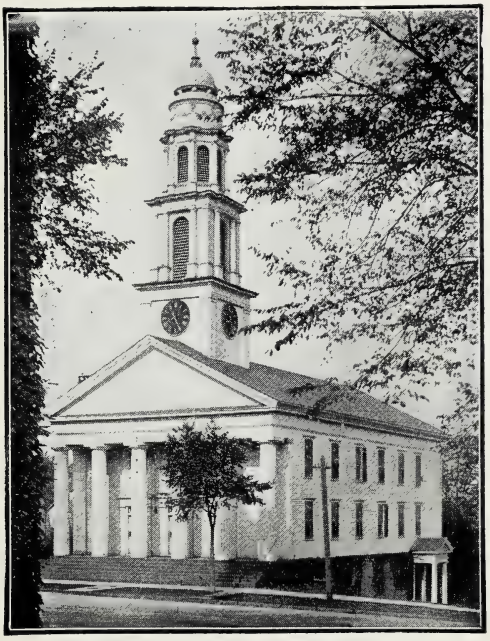
The Center Congregational church, situated at the corner of Broad and East Main streets, in the heart of the up-town district, is the oldest church edifice in the city, having been erected in 1830. Its architecture is typical of the Puritan period of church building, being indeed a visible embodiment of the simplicity, dignity and stability which marked the character and life of the times out of which it sprang. It stands in the midst of the rush and complexity of our modern life, proclaiming silently the plainer virtues and austerer life of the forefathers; and binding into one the past of small beginnings and the flourishing present of our city. A New England classic it is, of unmixed type, its simple, noble lines eminently satisfying the sense of proportion and churchliness. The auditorium is finished in white, its chaste surfaces combining effectively with the furnishings of green and gold.

Especially admired is the tower with its graceful symmetry, enhanced by a scheme of light Doric and Ionic pillars and classic decorations. The clock in the tower is a well-known landmark..

The Center Congregational church has been so called since the year 1848. In that year a division in the original Congregational church took place largely in consequence of the center of population changing to the westward; about three-quarters of the church removing, while the records show about one hundred and twenty to have remained, including all the deacons of the church. The property was divided. Those who removed carried with them the records of the original church organization, and adopted the name "First Congregational Church." Those who remained to worship in the old building adopted by the advice of the council the title "Center Congregational Church."

There was left to the old site by this division a band of noble men and women to keep alive the altar fires which their fathers had builded. Some of them were men of weight, the stamp of whose character was already on the growing town. Called henceforth by a new ecclesiastical name, they nevertheless knew no other church than the one whose meeting house they then occupied; no other church traditions than those which for a hundred and twenty years had been taking root in the soil of their affections; no other memories than those centering around the pastorates of a long line of godly ministers, who, beginning with Theophilus Hall, had shepherded the one and undivided Congregational flock. Center Church today is the possessor of this ancient site of worship, and joint heir of these traditions and memories. On the membership roll of the church to-day are not a few names running

back to the coming of Congregationalism to Meriden. To the extent, therefore, that the age of a church is determined by the duration of its organic life more than by its nomenclature, the present Center Church rejoices in a spiritual ancestry as old as Congregationalism is old in Meriden.



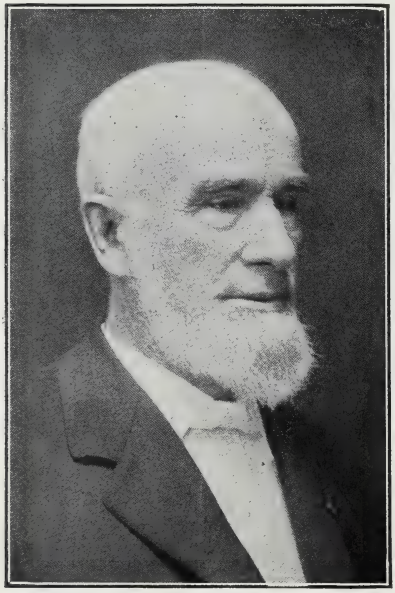
CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The pastors of the church since the year 1848 have been, with the terms of service of each: Rev. Asahel A. Stevens, 1848-1854; Rev. Lewis E. Lockwood, 1857-1858; Rev. O. H. White, 1858-1862; Rev. J. J. Woolley, 1862-1871; Rev. Edw. Hungerford, 1872-1879; Rev. A. H. Hall, 1880-1891; Rev. J. C. Wilson, 1892-1896; Rev. J. H. Grant, 1896 to the present time.

Two of the former pastors of the church are living, Rev. J. J. Woolley, pastor of the Park Place Congregational church, Pawtucket, R. I., and Rev. Edward Hungerford, residing in Burlington, Vermont, and still in active pastoral service. During the pastorate of Mr. Hungerford, the house of worship was extended twenty feet to the west, excavation made for a new lecture room and parlors, the present organ was purchased and the church interior reconstructed. Again during the pastorate of Rev. J. C. Wilson, 1892-6, the premises were greatly improved

by the removal of an unsightly brick building occupying the corner, and the church interior was remodeled and beautified.

The membership of the church at this writing is something over four hundred. Few features of the institutional church have been taken on, both location and constituency favoring rather the type of the



REV. J. J. WOOLLEY.

conservative family church. "Homelike" expresses its chief appeal to its members, who are known as a united and loyal people. Through a variety of organizations which embody the modern aim and method of spiritual service the church seeks to make itself the servant of the community in the things of the Kingdom of God.

The organizations at present, in addition to the Sunday school, are as follows: The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, auxiliary to the New Haven Branch of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions; The Ladies' Aid Society, for philanthropic and social purposes; The Ladies' Auxiliary, having the same object as the preceding: The Men's Club, for "the better acquaintance of the men of the parish, and the promotion of the welfare of the church;" The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor; The Liberty Club (young ladies), for missionary and charitable work; The Sunbeam Society (young children), for missionary study and work; The Junior Church Workers (boys), for Christian culture and usefulness in the church; The Cradle Roll (the youngest children), for missionary and social good.

The present officers of the church in addition to the pastor are: deacons, L. B. Yale, O. C. Hupfer, W. B. Rice, P. C. Crombie; clerk, O. W. Gaines; treasurer, W. F. Smith; superintendent of the Sunday School, J. H. Yale; superintendent of primary department, Mrs. Fannie A. Augur.. It deserves a place in this record that Mrs. Augur has served the church in this capacity more than forty years. The church made recognition not long ago of this remarkable service with a reception and presentation.

The property of the church is under the control and care of a corporation, the "Center Ecclesiastical

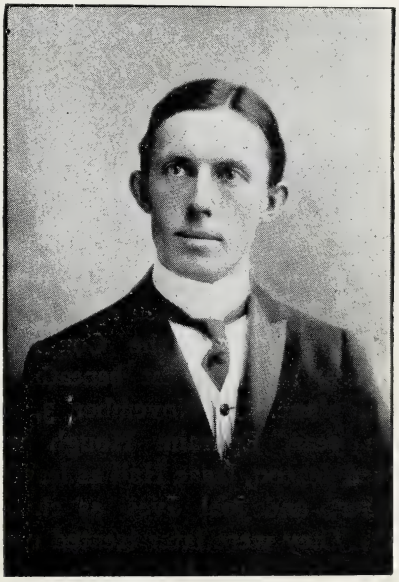
Society." The present society's committee, whose functions are those of trustees, consists of F. P. Griswold, chairman; J. H. Yale and D. L. Bishop. Besides the church edifice valued at $30,000, the society owns a parsonage, and invested funds of the value of six thousand dollars. The parsonage, a roomy, comfortable home, situated at a sightly point on Broad street, was built in the sixties largely through the efforts of Deacon Walter Booth, who gave the land and superintended the building.

Rev. John H. Grant, the present pastor, completes this year the tenth of his term of service.

The pastor of the Center Congregational church, Rev. John H. Grant, was born in Goldsboro, N. C., February 10, 1870. His father, Major H. L. Grant, served with distinction through the Civil war as a member of the Sixth Connecticut Volunteer Regiment and at the conclusion of the war settled in the south. Mr. Grant's mother is a native of Thompson, Conn. Goldsboro has been the family home since 1868.

The subject of this sketch is the eldest of five children. He attended the public schools of his native town; the Putnam (Conn.) High School, and for a single year Wake Forest College, N. C., completing his preparation for college. Four years, 1888-1892, were spent at Amherst College, Mass., where Mr. Grant availed himself especially of the departments of literature and public speaking, and was identified with various college organizations, musical, dramatic and social. He is the possessor of the Phi Beta Kappa Key, and is a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity. He was graduated with the degree of A. B., class of 1892.

The following four years were given to preparation for the ministry,



REV. JOHN H. GRANT.

the first two years at the Divinity school of the University of Chicago, the last two at Yale Divinity school, New Haven, from which he was graduated in 1896, with the degree of B. D. The following summer was passed in travel in Europe.

With the exception of two summers in Rutland, Vermont, as pastor's assistant, the Meriden pastorate of Mr.

Grant is the only one which he has held. He was ordained to the ministry at the same time that he was installed as pastor, October 6, 1896.

He held the office of president of the local Ministers' Association, and secretary of the Meriden Guild of the Religious Education Association.

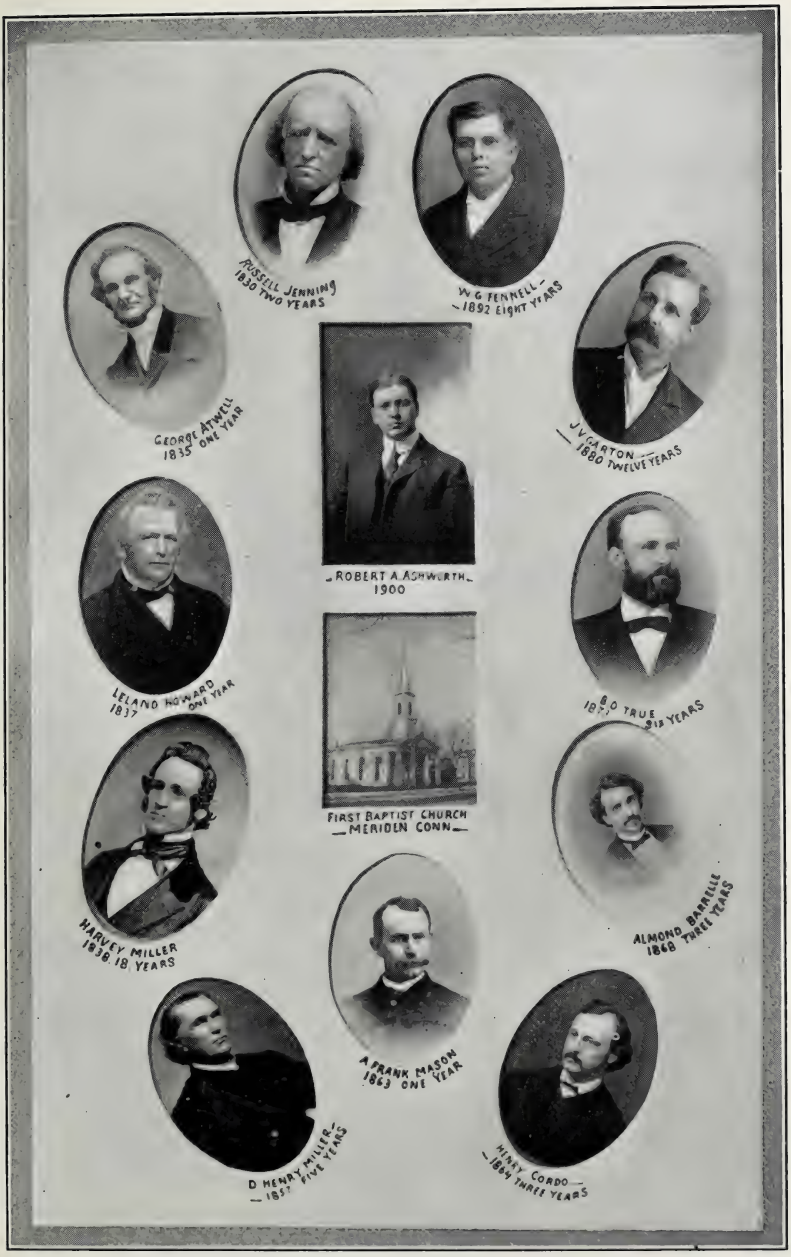
Mr. Grant married in 1901 Margaret K., eldest daughter of the late Rev. Alfred H. Hall, a predecessor in the pulpit of Center church. One son has been born to this union, Alfred Hall Grant. The family make their home in the parsonage, 630 Broad street.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

This society was organized Oct. 7, 1786, when Baptists were few in numbers and looked then upon by the "Standing Order," the Congregationalists, as somewhat beneath the social plane. On November 3, the same year, Ephraim Hough was chosen deacon, Isaac Hall as leading brother, and Joel Ives as church clerk. They were later treated more kindly by the Methodists, who assisted them materially in the building of their second meeting house.

Among the men of the town who became in a measure supporters of the Baptist Church, but not members of either the church or the society should be mentioned the following: Noah Pomeroy, L. Wilcox, W. Martin, Chas. Parker, I. C. Lewis, John Parker, J. W. Russell, Edmund Parker, Worcester Ives, W. Beckett, John Blake, S. Gladwin and L. Ives. For many years before any meeting house was built within the confines of the present township of Meriden, Baptists attended divine worship, as far back as 1739, at the meeting house in Wallingford. The present society was formed after it had been decided to divide that church. The Meriden constituency then formed a new covenant which was signed by the following twelve members of this society: brethren Isaac Hall, Chas. Ives, Ephraim Hough, Zena Brockett, Asaph Mitchell, Charles Ives, Jr., Samuel Mix, and sisters Leah Peck, Sarah Ives, Mary Hull, Jerusha Matoon, and Esther Matoon, Isaac Hall being the first clerk. For several years thereafter meetings were held in private dwellings, schoolhouses and other places, usually in the southeastern part of the present Meriden.

In 1801 a dwelling house was purchased near the present dividing line of Meriden and Wallingford to accommodate Baptists living in both towns, but in 1815 the Meriden Baptists erected a second meeting house, which stood just south of the present parsonage, and on the site which now comprises the south corner of Charles street. This building was named by the members of the "Standing Order" the Salt Box, from its unpretentious appearance and scanty furnishings. The pews of the church first consisted of logs hewn on one side only, and



GROUP OF PASTORS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

each family brought its own foot stove which was shared during the lengthy services by each member of the family. During the noon hour the fires in these foot warmers were replenished at neighboring houses. Such were the deprivations of these worshippers that at the end of the first winter, ten men pledged themselves to make the church more comfortable, and all of them did a portion of the work with their own hands, there being little if any money used in the first improvements. Among these ten were: James Baldwin, who sawed all the lumber to build the pews; Joseph Twiss, who furnished oxen to draw the same to Mr. Baldwin's mill; and Squire William Yale, who was a mountain of strength to the church and who was said to have possessed at the time, the only "sale" carpeted house in Meriden. Squire Yale was looked upon with a great deal of respect by his neighbors for he entertained the ministers at his house. In 1820 a committee comprising Joseph Twiss, Othniel Ives, Daniel Hall, and Seth D. Plumb, the last named of whom was appointed sexton without pay "to keep the key of the meeting house, and see that it was swept and kept in good order" and who is said to have borne that honor most gracefully, were appointed a committee to procure preaching for one year and also to keep a book of the society in which should be recorded "all the doings of building the meeting house," and which book was to contain also the subscriptions of their own members and those of the Methodists in behalf of the same. Ebenezer Hall, Wm. Yale, Daniel Baldwin and Othniel Ives were appointed choristers. The second church when not in use by the Baptists was free for the use of the Methodists, who were also made welcome at all times. On September 4, 1820, it was agreed to instruct the society's committee to receive the share of the money previously voted by the state for the "encouragement of religion and literature." In 1823 it being decided that "the meeting house must be kept in good repair, looking neat and clean, and be well insured," Samuel Baldwin, Samuel Yale and Samuel Ives Hart were appointed a committee, "to oversee and manage the business," but it was not until November the next year that this work was accomplished when Eli C. Birdsey, S. Baldwin, Titus Ives and William and Jonathan Yale secured the money to carry out the instructions of the society.

In 1830 the society removed the church building to a lot directly across the street adjoining the graveyard, at which time the underpinning was raised and a basement story put in. This became a later place of worship of the self sacrificing and struggling Baptists, and was accomplished through free will offerings of friends within and without the

society boundaries. This building in later years came to be used for educational purposes, and was known as "The Academy on the Hill," and for many years was the only high school building in the town. In 1846, it being evident that a still larger church



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

edifice was needed, a committee comprising Joel Miller, Alanson Birdsey, N. F. Goodrich, Ira Twiss, and Ezra Rutty were appointed to confer with the First Congregational Society with a view of purchasing their meeting house, which was soon to be vacated, the Congregationalists having decided to build a larger church.

The Congregationalists, however, would not sell, and as a result the Baptists resolved "that in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient to take immediate measures to secure a more ample house of worship." Samuel Yale, taking in the situation, quietly purchased the then vacant lot adjoining the Congregational edifice

of Mr. Saltonstall, after which, it having been so voted, this land was purchased by the society. Without further delay, O. Crocker, N. F. Goodrich and Charles Blanchard were appointed a committee "to secure a design and specifications for a new house of worship." The work of building the new church met with a remonstrance from the neighboring church who caused an injunction to be placed on the progress of the work, the reason given for the same when the question was decided in court was as follows: "No objection to the Baptists as Christian people, as good neighbors and worthy citizens," but Rev. Mr. Miller had a peculiarly sharp, ringing voice, that the Congregationalists claimed would disturb their society in worship. As may be readily supposed the injunction was removed and the present house of worship erected. The first pastor of the church was the Rev. Samuel Miller, who filled the pulpit for many years, being both ordained and installed in 1806, filling the pulpit for twenty-three years thereafter. After his death in 1829 an extensive revival resulted in adding many scores to the church. From the beginning of the society the name of Miller has been a predominating one, and as a loyal member of the present society has happily put it, "the Millers of the constructive rather than the destructive sort, have ever hovered about the church," and the members of the Miller family through several generations up to the present time have been most loyal supporters of the society and its commendable work.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLIVE BRANCH CHAPEL.

After the death of Samuel Miller the following served for brief terms as pastors: Rev. Russell Jennings, Rev.

Nathaniel Harvey, Rev. George B. Atwell and Rev. Leland Howard. In 1838, Rev. Harvey Miller, son of Rev. Samuel Miller, became their pastor and during his pastoral term the church prospered greatly and in 1846-47 the present edifice was erected.

In fulfilment of his dying request, Rev. D. Henry Miller, D. D., was secured as pastor and he served five years, until he enlisted in the War of the Rebellion. Since that time the following have been pastors: Rev. A. F. Mason, Rev. H. A. Cordo, D. D., Rev. Almonde Barrelle, Rev. B. O. True, D. D., Rev. J. V. Garton, Rev. W. G. Fennell, and Rev. Robert A. Ashworth, the present pastor, who came in response to the call from the church, in 1899. The growth of the society has been steady although at various times members have been dismissed to help organize the following churches: Main Street Baptist, Swedish and German Baptist. Much has also been done by the so-called up-town Baptist church, to aid the Olive Branch Mission and the Park Avenue mission which have been established by it. Not only, therefore, has the First Baptist church contributed generously to the membership of the societies of its offsprings, but its remaining members have given unselfishly of their means to enable the younger churches of their denomination to place themselves on substantial footings.

The value of the church property, including the parsonage, now occupied by the present pastor, is $20,000. This valuation also includes the Olive Branch chapel structure in the extreme easterly portion of Meriden, and which was established something over thirty years ago, in which Deacon Russell Perkins was for many years a leading spirit. According to the statistics of the New Haven Baptist Association, of which this and all other Baptist churches in Meriden are members, the First Baptist church has a total enrolled membership of 597. Of this there is a resident membership of 164 men and 349 women. The total enrolled membership of the three Bible schools, including the Olive Branch mission school, and that which has been maintained during the past eight years at Park Avenue, is 554. The average attendance at the several Sunday schools is 335. During the year of 1905 the church was entirely freed from debt and the church property was also repaired.

Rev. Robert Archibald Ashworth, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was born at Glasgow, Scotland, July 26, 1871. His father, Rev. J. W. Ashworth, also a minister of the Baptist denomination, after having held pastorates in Scotland and later in England, emigrated to this country and was installed as pastor of the Baptist Church of Malone, N. Y. He afterwards held pastorates in New York City, Putnam, Conn., and Ticonderoga, N. Y., where he died.

His son graduated at the High school of Malone, N. Y. He later

took the regular academic course at Columbia University of New York City, which was followed by an additional year under appointment as University Fellow in English Language and Literature, at the conclusion of which he received the degree of A. M. He fitted for the pulpit at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, from which he graduated in 1896.



REV. R. A. ASHWORTH.

Rev. Mr. Ashworth had two pastorates previous to coming to Meriden, viz., the Baptist church at Minerva, N. Y., where he remained for two years, and the First Baptist Church at Bridgeton, N. J., where he remained for two years before accepting the call of the First Baptist Church of this city where he was installed in 1900. Mr. Ashworth is one of the trustees of the Connecticut Baptist Convention and of the Connecticut Literary Institution at Suffield. He is also president of the Meriden Guild of the Religious Education Association of America.

He is married to Mabelle, daughter of F. C. Edgerton of Meriden and they have one daughter, Katharine.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

Owing to the growth of the population of the vicinity on June 4, 1861, there was formed an organization, under the name of the West Meriden Baptist church, consisting of thirty-seven members who had received their dismissal from the First Baptist church.

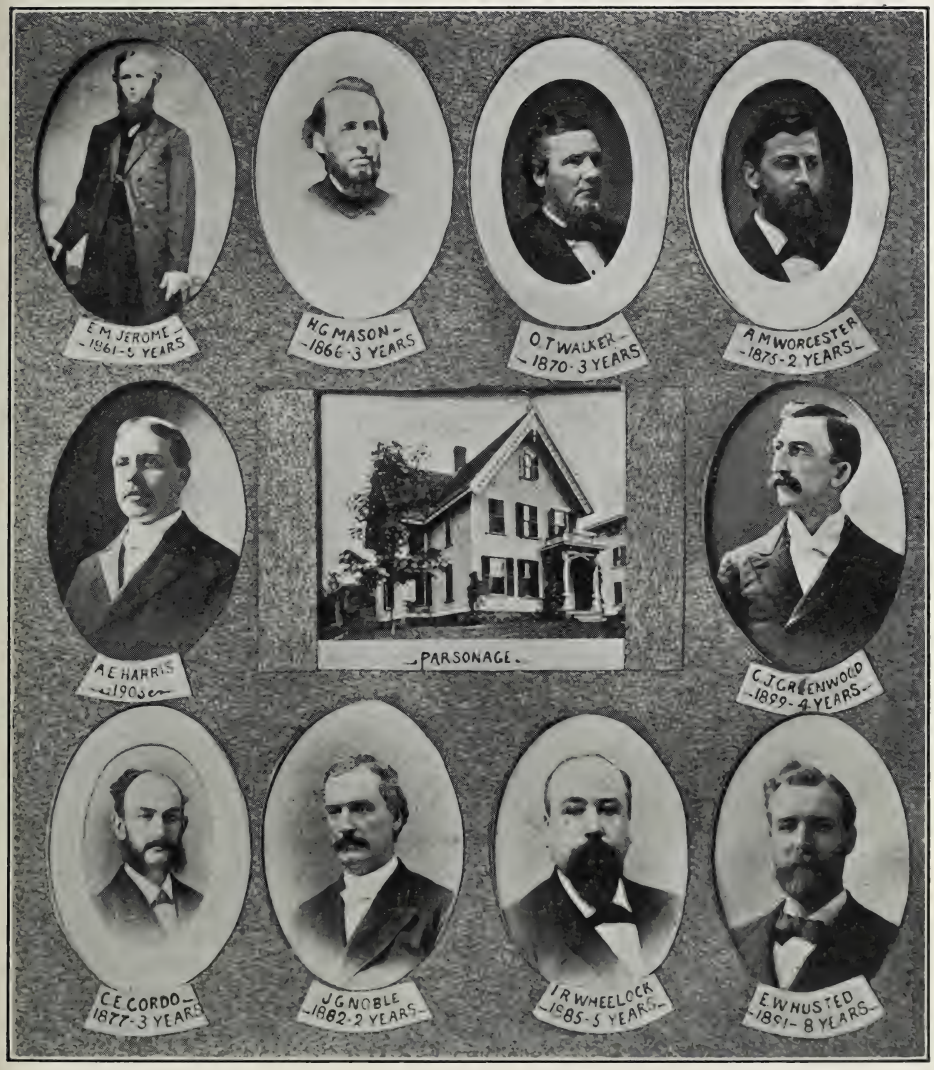
On the site now ocupied by the Meriden National Bank, they erected a chapel at the cost of $1,400, which was dedicated on May 15, of the same year. The first business meeting was held previous to the organization at the rooms of Charles Page.

The present edifice, which was dedicated July 12, 1868, was built during 1867-68. The parsonage was added to the property shortly after the completion of the church. In 1881, by vote of the members, the name was changed to the Main Street Baptist Church, and in May, 1886, was incorporated under the laws of the state.

Although it was a small number that organized the church, since that time

there have probably been more than 1,000 names added to the membership roll. In 1890 this church gave letters of dismissal to fifty-four members, who with others from the First Baptist Society, organized the Swedish Baptist Church.

The Main Street Baptist edifice is of brick and is located in the center of the city. Since its erection many



GROUP OF PASTORS OF THE MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

improvements have been made externally as well as internally. During the present pastorate the basement was remodeled into beautiful social rooms at a very large cost.

The church has had ten pastors, and they have presided over an ever growing and harmonious congregation in the following order: Rev. E. M. Jerome, Rev. H. G. Mason, Rev. O. T. Walker, Rev. A. M. Worcester, Rev. C. E. Cordo, Rev. J. G. Noble, Rev. I. R. Wheelock, Rev. E. W. Husted, Rev. C. J. Greenwood and Rev. Arthur Emerson Harris, the present pastor. During the pastorate of the last named the church has especially prospered spiritually and a large portion of a long standing debt has been paid.

Under the charge of the present pastor, they have one of the largest and best attended Junior C. E. societies of any church in the city. This society has doubled its membership within a year. There is a large Bible school and also several other societies in connection with this church, all of which are growing steadily in numbers, and great interest is shown in the work.



MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

The value of the church property, including the parsonage, is $44,800,

but this will be enhanced in a degree by marked improvements to the interior of the church that are to be made during the summer months of 1906. The interior will then be handsomely redecorated, electric lighting will take the place of gas; there will also be made important changes in the pulpit platform and baptistry and a new organ will probably supplant the old. The main body of the church will also be carpeted anew.

The resident membership comprises 100 men and 153 women, and the total enrolled membership is 378, according to the statistics presented at the eightieth meeting of the New Haven Baptist Association held in 1905. The total enrolled membership of the Sunday school is 225 and the average attendance about 135.

The following are the officers for 1906:

Deacons, P. A. Spencer, G. A. Gladwin, Garry C. Bloomfield and Horace W. Kingsley; trustees, first, I. I. Gardner, second, E. H. Lane, and third, E. R. Lewis; treasurer, J. T. Kay; collector, H. H. Lester; auditors, H. W. Kingsley, Frank E. Kay and R. E. Mills; benevolent band, Deacon Gladwin; ushers, C. M. Glantz, F. L. Theime, Ed. Joel, Le Roy Gardner, A. J. Rowley, Paul Gehring, Howard Lane and Irving Wood.

Rev. Arthur Emerson Harris, pastor of the Main street Baptist church, was born May 3, 1870, at Montreal, Can., of English parentage. At the age of five his family removed to England, residing at Brighton, where Mr. Harris received his early education in one of the numerous "Church" schools of that country, private schools supported partly by the established Church of England, and partly by the fees paid by parents who were unwilling to send their children to the board schools, which answer somewhat to American public free schools,

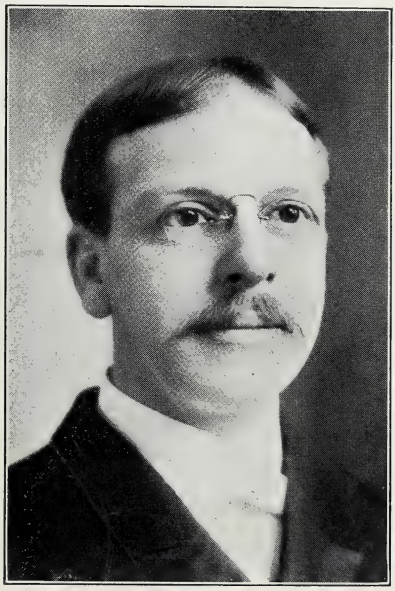


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

REV. A. E. HARRIS.

but were very inferior. This accounts for a religious training from the very first such as was not to be had in the common school education. Circumstances recalled his parents to Canada in 1882 and the family returned to Montreal, where Mr. Harris, then twelve years of age, entered business

life in the office of a celebrated patent solicitor. At the age of fifteen, he went alone to Toronto, to seek his life work and fortune unaided, and succeeded in securing a training in business management and acquiring a knowledge of telegraphy, being placed subsequently in charge of what was then a new venture in Canada, a large district messenger and branch telegraph office, with the oversight of some fifty boys.

Mr. Harris aspired to business life of a different order, however, and in 1883 accepted an important position with a prominent New York banking institution, where, after a series of promotions he had a successful business career, and was offered the position of manager of a branch banking house in Reading, Penn., and afterwards in Philadelphia. It was while in this latter city that Mr. Harris finally responded to the call, that he had felt justified hitherto in steadily resisting, to enter the gospel ministry of his own denomination, the Baptist church. Accordingly in 1895 he entered Crozer Theological Seminary at Chester, Penn., and after pursuing the regular course of three years, received his diploma, June, 1898, and was ordained shortly following at the Fifth Baptist church of Philadelphia. He was afterward married in that church October 29, 1902, to Anna Loomis Meredith, of Philadelphia, who has made him an excellent helpmate in his life work.

The first pastorate Mr. Harris filled was during his senior year at seminary when he took charge of the Liberty Park Baptist chapel, a mission of the Baptist churches of Camden, N. J., and which has since become the Brean Baptist church of Camden. In 1898, he was called, upon his graduation from Crozer, to the pastorate of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Newark, N. J., which church he served for a little over five years, resigning that charge in 1903 to accept the pastorate of the Main street Baptist church of this city, assuming his new duties with the last Sunday in June of the same year. Since his coming there have been noticeable additions both to the property and membership and he holds the love and esteem of a loyal and harmonious flock. Mr. Harris is a man of great energy and force and since he became its pastor the church has been greatly blessed spiritually.

GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

The German Baptists of Meriden as indicated by the membership of their church, number at this writing about 100. Previous to 1874 when the society was formally organized, these good people in order to attend church where their language was spoken, went to a place of worship in New Haven. Andrew Stockburger, a staunch Baptist and a preacher but not a clergyman, and his wife, Christina, to a certain extent a missionary in Meriden, are justly called the organizers of the Ger-

man Baptist church here. For some years meetings and Sunday school were held at their house on Gale avenue, at first but once a month, and gradually more frequently. Later meetings were held in the old schoolhouse that stood on Broad street at the north side of the old burying ground. Meetings were also held by the German Baptists at the old

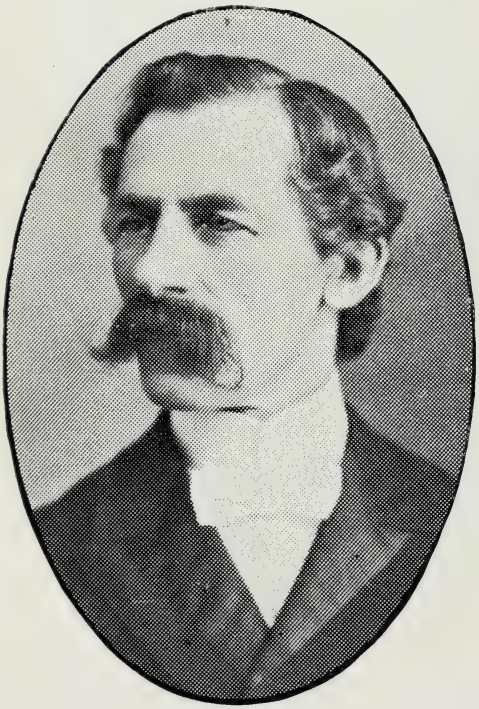


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE.

town hall and before the erection of their present edifice, in the east wing of the Main Street Baptist church. It was in 1874, a short time after a regular pastor in the person of Rev. Henry Moelman had been engaged and who was installed May 30, 1873, that they became possessed of two large and highly desirable building lots at the corner of Liberty and Twiss streets. This land was purchased by the First Baptist church society from Waldo C. Twiss at a very reasonable figure, and Edward Miller was one of the largest contributors in the purchase of the land, which was leased by that society to the German Baptists for a period of ninety-nine years. The acquisition of this land and the popularity of the first regular pastor enthused and encouraged the members to such an extent that the building of the present edifice was soon begun and this was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1876. The growth of the society was more pronounced in its early days

and although organized with but seventeen members or families, the first year thereafter twenty-five persons received baptism at the hands of Rev. Mr. Moelman. He remained pastor for thirteen years and during his pastorate the church thrived handsomely both spiritually



REV. J. C. HUBER.

and otherwise. His loss to the church was sadly felt for he was greatly beloved by his people. Some months after his departure Rev. Henry Weimar was engaged to preside over the church and as the second pastor remained four years. The third pastor was Rev. Henry Bentz, who remained three years as did also Rev. Henry Meyers who became the next settled pastor. Later divines of this church were Rev. Emil Berger who served as such six years and Rev. F. Knorr who filled the pulpit from 1901 to 1904. The present pastor, Rev. J. C. Huber, was installed Sept. 1, 1904.

In 1891 the present church parsonage, owned by the society, was built and this with a few exceptions has been occupied by the several pastors and their families. The first deacon of the church was Andrew Schwab and the present deacons are Andrew Stockburger and John Luft. The clerk of the church for many years at intervals has been John Guenther, a neighbor of Deacon Stockburger and the treasurer is Andrew Stockburger, jr.

Some time ago the church became incorporated. There are 100 active resident members of the church and about 80 in the Sunday school. There is also a society of Willing Workers of twenty members and a Young People's society of thirty members, also a Ladies' Aid Society and Junior League.

Rev. J. C. Huber was born in Switzerland and at the age of seventeen came to this country. He was educated for the ministry at the theological seminary at Minneapolis, Minn., where he resided for many years. His pastorates have been at Tomah, Wis., Danville, Minn., St. Charles, Minn., and previous to

coming to Meriden was located for seven years in Newark, N. J., where he preached in two different churches, one of which was the First German Baptist church of that city. He, like his predecessors, preaches in German although services are at times held in English. He is held in high esteem not only by the German speaking population who attend his church, but in the community at large. He has been blessed with a large family and the members of his household add to his efforts in behalf of Christianity.

THE SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Swedish Baptist Church of Meriden, Conn., under which name it became incorporated December 2, 1889, was organized February 16, 1887, with nineteen members who had withdrawn by letter from the Main Street Baptist Church, of Meriden. Some time previous to this the Swedish people of this faith were banded together and held business meetings, calling themselves a society as early as 1886, and several of whom came to this city from the American Baptist Church of New Britain. The first chairman of the society was Rev. O. Lindh, now at Cambridge, Mass., who officiated at the organization of the church.

The young society after having maintained a Sunday school in a small hall on Britannia street near the railroad crossing, and having held preaching services both in this hall and alternately the Main Street Baptist Church, commenced building the present edifice at the Corner of Park Avenue and Franklin street. The following comprised the building committee: Oscar Peterson, John E. Swenson, Bernard Swenson, G. Kjall, Hans Hanson and Rev. A. Rohnstrom, the last named being then pastor of the church. The corner stone of the new edifice was laid with appropriate ceremonies July 6, 1890, and great was the joy in the hearts of the Swedish Baptists when the church was formally dedicated Nov. 21, 1890.

The church has been a growing institution from the start, and during its nineteen years of usefulness 297 have been given the right hand of fellowship, thus becoming members of the church. The membership of the church at the present day is 133. During its existence there has been paid for running expenses, charity and missions nearly $25,000. The church, of which an illustration is shown, together with the parsonage, has a seating capacity of 250, and is valued at $8,000, and upon which there is no debt. The church corporation has also built a comfortable parsonage fronting on Park avenue, at a cost of $2,000, but upon this a debt of $1,500 still remains.

The services are held in Swedish but there are classes in the Sunday school in which English is used and

meetings of the different societies of the church, which are frequently attended by English speaking people. The members are enthusiastic and the services are well attended, while the Sunday school has a membership of about 100.

Several well known Swedish he remained until 1893 when Rev. T. Clafford became the pastor, serving five years. Rev. W. Kohler was installed and held the pastorate until 1904, when Rev. Robert Larson was called to the church from Minnesota, and he has since guided the spiritual lives of its members.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE.

divines of the Baptist faith have presided over the church from time to time. The first regular pastor was Rev. A. P. Sword, who served in 1888-89 and was followed by Rev. A. Rohnstrom, under whose pastorate the church was built, and The deacons of the church at the present writing are Hans Hanson, John E. Swenson, David Dahl and Olof Falk.

Mr. Larson was born at Skarfsjon, Stensele, Westerbotten, Sweden. Coming to this country at the

age of twenty to seek his fortune, he finally entered the Theological Seminary of the University of Chicago, from which he was afterward graduated, and December 8, 1900 became an ordained preacher of the Baptist church, later becoming installed pastor of the Swedish Baptist Church at Willmar, Minn. Since his coming to Meriden, the Swedish Baptist Church has continued to

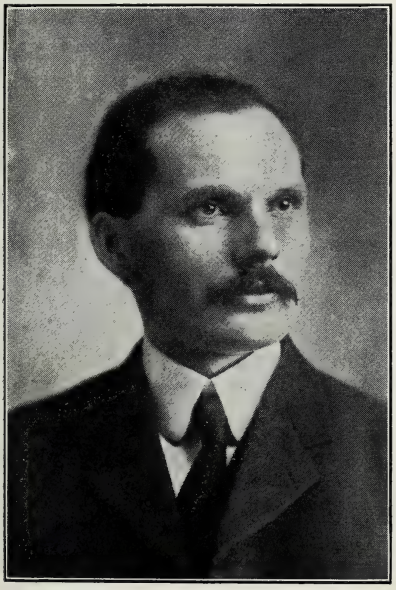


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

REV. ROBERT LARSON.

grow in membership and prosperity and during his brief pastorate, a remaining debt on the church edifice has been liquidated. Mr. Larson is a man of scholarly attainments and is much beloved by those of his nationality in Meriden, and enjoys the highest esteem of those who know him.

He is married to Anna Sophia Mattson, formerly of Daggett, Mich., and they have two bright infant boys, Charles Eben and Rolf Osmund. Rev. Mr. Larson and his family reside at the church parsonage.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

The Episcopal parish of Meriden had its origin in the troubles incident to the Revolution. Moses Andrews, one of the brothers of the famous Parson Andrews of Wallingford, was a farmer in the western part of the town. When the war broke out, in common with the rest of the Episcopalians, he became an object of suspicion to the ruling authorities. Though remarkable for the mildness and gentleness of his character, he was placed under heavy bonds and forbidden to leave his farm under any pretense whatever, without the special permission of the selectmen of the town. To Mr. Andrews the severest part of the punishment was the being forbidden to worship God with his brethren on the Lord's day and in the Lord's house. He therefore petitioned for permission to go to church on Sundays in Wallingford. The indulgence for which he would have been thankful was refused. In place of it he was graciously given permission to attend the Congregational meeting house in Meriden. But

that was a favor which the sturdy old churchman did not appreciate. Finding that he would not be allowed to attend the church of his choice he determined to have a church in his own house, and that house is now standing at 424 West Main street. Slabs and blocks of wood were brought from the neighboring saw mill for benches, and the neighbors were invited to attend. Every Sunday the little congregation, probably not more than fifteen or twenty in all, assembled to unite in the worship according to the prayer book and listen to a sermon from some standard author. Neighbor Andrews himself was the lay-reader. The services thus humbly commenced were continued almost a quarter of a century.

The organization of this time honored parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which makes Meriden somewhat famous church-wise, dates back to 1789, and according to an historical sketch by late Rev. G. H. Deshon, D. D., on April 13, of that year, a preliminary meeting was held during the progress of which the following agreement was signed:

Meriden, April 13, 1789.

"We, whose names are underwritten, do declare our conformity to the Church of England and desire of joining the worship and sacraments of said church, do consent and agree to support the same."

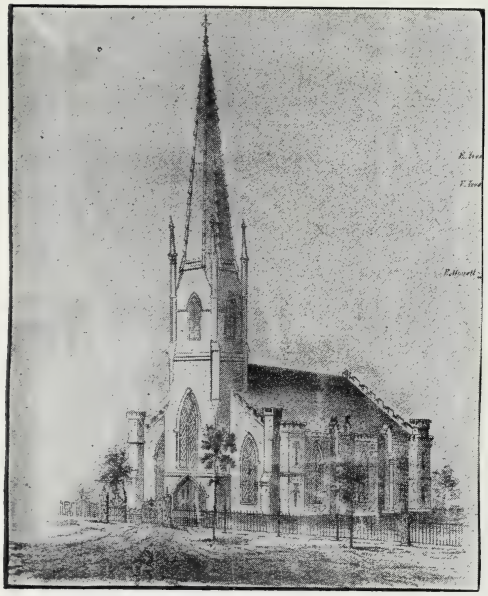
Signed: Reuben Ives, clerk; Denison Andrews, Moses Andrews, Isaac Atwater, David Andrews, Simeon Perkins, John B. Douglass, Ezra Butler, Watt Hubbard, Seth DeWolf, and Solomon Yale. This simple record of the first proceedings toward the formation of the society were the first steps taken by these early Episcopalians in Meriden.

At a following meeting held in Meriden, December 28 of the same year the society was formally organized, at which time Moses Andrews was chosen first clerk, and Denison Andrews and Isaac Atwater, the society committee. Rev. Reuben Ives of Cheshire, who in the meantime had served as missionary was placed in charge of the parish thus formed and was engaged as the first rector by the following vote: "that we will hire Mr. Ives to preach four days for this year," "Voted: To keep up meetings for this year." This vote according to Dr. Deshon was to have the services of a clergyman but for four Sundays during the year, the balance of the time to continue the lay services to which they had previously been accustomed. Mr. Ives, who remained in charge of the parish as its missionary from the time of its organization to 1824, sometimes preached as often as six Sundays a year. Although for several years the society was too small in membership and too poor in purse to even think of building a church, yet in 1795 they proposed "to erect a church at the southeast corner of



GROUP OF RECTORS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

the green whereon the meeting house now stands" (meaning the Congregational Meeting house), "provided the land can be obtained," but it was not until 1806 that they voted "that we will build a house for publick worship on ground belonging to Joseph Merriam." This land was located on West Main street, directly opposite the house of



SECOND EPISCOPAL EDIFICE.

Almon Andrews, but a month later they changed their minds, and decided to build the church elsewhere, "within sixty rods of the meeting house in Meriden," which they afterwards did.

The raising of money for the first church edifice then became a serious problem and among the various plans suggested was one to apply to the legislature for a grant of a lottery, a method of raising money as fashionable then as fairs of the present day. Another was to "build a house the doors of which should be opened to the Baptists and Presbyterians when not occupied by the Episcopal Society." Both of these plans were almost immediately abandoned, and the society finally decided, and with laudable independence, to build a church by legitimate methods, building it piece by piece, as fast only as they could pay for it. First they raised the frame, then they had it shingled, later they were enabled to have it plastered, and finally the pews and furniture were put in. All this was accomplished after ten years of patience and self-denial, and the first edifice on Broad street was consecrated to God October 18, 1816, by Bishop Hobart of New York, under the name of St. Andrew's Church, and upon that occasion thirty-eight persons were confirmed by him. The building, a plain wooden structure with a frontage of thirty-six feet and a depth of forty-five feet, stood in marked contrast to the imposing edifice, the present St. Andrew's church, as is shown in a following illustration. The exterior was the personification of plainness, but the interior was neatly arranged according to the fashion of the times. Dr. Deshon described the interior as follows, "a gallery ran around three sides of the build-

ing. A huge pulpit stood at the west end surmounted by a canopy, flanked on either side by an elevated flight of steps, and cushioned and festooned most lavishly with crimson damask. In the front of the pulpit was a formidable structure which served for a reading desk. In front of the reading desk was a small communion table enclosed by a small semi-circular rail. The space under the stairs in the lower part of the church, by the side door, was used for the vestry room."

Rev. Reuben Ives was, in 1825, succeeded by Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, one of the four candidates admitted to holy orders by Bishop Seabury at the first Episcopal ordination ever held in America. He was followed in 1826 by Rev. Nathaniel Bruce who was called according to the parish records by the following cautious vote: "to appoint a committee to wait on the Rev. Nathaniel Bruce, and see if he can be obtained to officiate two-thirds of the time for the year ensuing; to make his residence in Meriden, salary not to exceed $200; to be instituted our clergyman during the amity and friendship of the parties." His short term of service according to the church records is therefore somewhat significant. Rev. Robert A. Hallam followed Rev. James Keeler as rector of St. Andrew's parish, and residents of Meriden are fully aware of his successful pastorate extending over a period of three years. He was known as a rector of "genial and winning manners, the brilliancy and beauty of his sermons and the earnest interest which he manifested in his work, rendered him a universal favorite, not only in the parish but among all classes of Christians. Much of the prosperity with which the parish has since been blessed may be fairly attributed to his labors."

Rev. Edward Ingersoll followed Dr. Hallam in ministering to the spiritual comforts of St. Andrew's parish, and later, in 1837, Rev. John M. Guion became the settled rector. Both of these men are said to have been preachers of "distinguished abilities." Melancthon Hoyt, "one of the most successful missionaries upon the extreme western border, known all over the land, even by the Indians," took charge of the parish in 1839.

Following Mr. Hoyt came Rev. Sabura S. Stocking, who became the rector in 1840, but was succeeded in 1841 by Rev. Chas. W. Everest, the latter of whom was distinguished not only as a preacher but as a poet. Rev. John T. Cushing became the head of the parish in 1843, and in 1844 came the Rev. Cyrus Munson. Mr. Munson who was a lifelong friend of Dr. Deshon, and his companion in his early ministry, was called to his heavenly reward while in the prime of life, just after his pastorate here. During the year following the death of Rev. Mr. Munson in 1849, Rev.

Abram L. Littlejohn became the rector; and he was succeeded in 1850 by the Rev. Giles H. Deshon. At the time of the coming of Mr. Deshon as rector, the church had entered upon a new era of prosperity for a new church edifice of Gothic architecture had been constructed on



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

Broad street by the parish and in this the princely generosity of a former rector, Dr. Hallam, figured conspicuously in the cost of the building, which was $15,000. This, the second church occupied by the Episcopalians in Meriden, was constructed of brownstone. The building was forty-five by eighty feet and its corner stone was laid June 8, 1848. It was consecrated by Bishop Brownell, February 6, 1850.

On Easter day, 1850, the Rev. Giles Henry Deshon assumed his duties as rector. Under his care and oversight the parish made rapid strides in material and spiritual growth. About this time the growth of the town began to extend westward and in a few years it was deemed advisable to build a new church edifice nearer the center of

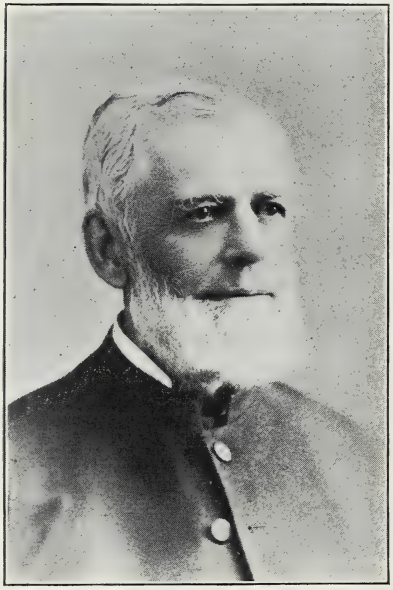
population. The corner stone of the new building was laid at the corner of Liberty and Catlin streets on the 8th day of August, 1866. Many of the stones in the old church were used in the construction of the new edifice, and the church was consecrated Nov. 7, 1867 by Bishop Williams. In 1871 the work of the parish had increased to such an extent that an assistant minister was appointed to help the rector. This first assistant was the Rev. Frank B. Lewis. Since his appointment there have been 16 assistant ministers in the parish, two of whom have been raised to the Episcopate, viz: the Right Reverend Chauncey Bunce Brewster, D. D., Bishop of Connecticut, and the Right Reverend John Hazen White, D. D., Bishop of Michigan City, Indiana. For 33 years did the Rev. Dr. Deshon minister to the people of St. Andrew's—an earnest practical preacher, and above all a faithful, tender hearted and sympathetic pastor. He bound to himself with cords of love and friendship, not only his own parishioners, but all residents in the community as well. His was an unique and noble personality. In all his ministry he was zealously supported by that trio of noble laymen, long ago gone to their rest, Edwin E. Curtis, Lemuel J. Curtis, and George R. Curtis. The last official act of Dr. Deshon was on Christmas Day, 1882, when he attended the services of the church suffering intense pain from an ulcerated tooth. His lowered vitality could not withstand the inroads of the resultant blood-poisoning, and on January 1, 1883, he passed to his reward. The growth of the parish under his administration is seen in the following convention reports:

1850		1883	
Families	95	Families	300
Baptisms	8	Baptisms	27
Communicants	117	Communicants	510
Confirmed	13	Confirmed	22
Marriages	1	Marriages	19
Funerals	3	Funerals	41

In June 1880, Rev. Arthur T. Randall, just ordained deacon, took up his duties as assistant minister. He held that position until the death of Dr. Deshon, when he took charge of the parish. The combined rectorships of these two clergymen extend over a period of fifty-six years. The parish continued to grow until in 1888 the corner stone of a parish house was laid, and a few months later was completed at a cost of $16,000.

In December 1885 services were started in a dwelling house in the western part of the city with a view of ultimately forming a parish. The generosity of Mrs. Phoebe A. Hallam, widow of a former rector of St. Andrew's, Dr. Hallam, made this feasible, as in her will was found a legacy of $10,000 to be used for the erection of a new church in Meriden. The first service was held in the new church on Ash Wednesday,

1893, and the edifice was separated from unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, and consecrated for the worship of Almighty God on Nov. 17, 1893, under the name of All Saints' Memorial Church. The



REV. GILES H. DESHON.

Rev. A. Sprague Ashley, assistant minister, had already been elected rector of the new parish, and the rector of St. Andrew's transferred to his spiritual care and oversight, 123 communicants who resided in that part of the city.

It is worthy of record to note the harmony which existed between the mother church and the daughter. The canon law of the Episcopal church requires that if application be made to the bishop for the formation of a new parish within the limits of an existing parish, the rector and vestry of said existing parish should be notified of such application, by the standing committee. In this instance, before All Saints' parish had made formal application to the bishop, a special meeting of St. Andrew's Parish was called, and a resolution passed informing the Bishop that a new parish was about to be formed within the limits of St.

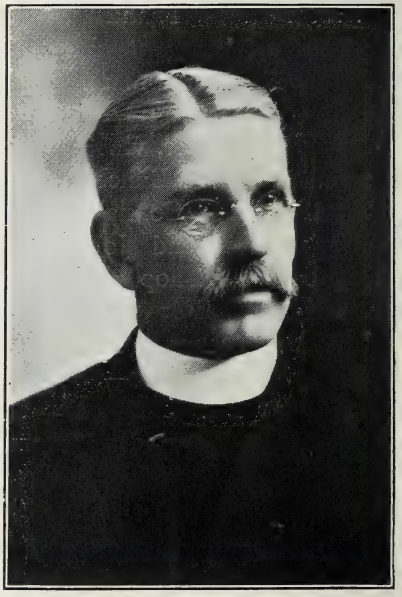


Photo by Akers

REV. A. T. RANDALL.

Andrew's, and that the old parish extended to the new one its best wishes and benediction.

In the convention journal of 1905, the following report from St. Andrew's is recorded:

Families, about 525.
Baptized persons, about 2,000.
Communicants, 803.
Parochial expenditures, $6,878.53.
Offerings for purposes outside of the parish, $1,080.30.

The wardens of the church since 1791 have been as follows: 1791, Joseph Merriam, Denison Andrews; 1792, Joseph Merriam, Seth DeWolf; 1793, Levi Douglass, Simeon Perkins; 1794, Joseph Merriam, Levi Douglass; 1796, Levi Douglass, Simeon Perkins; 1797, Joseph Merriam, Simeon Perkins; 1805, Joseph Merriam, Moses Andrews; 1806, Joseph Merriam, Lemuel Bradley; 1807, Joseph Merriam, Yale I. Hough; 1808, Samuel Tibbals, Dan Andrews; 1809, Samuel Tibbals, Asahel Merriam; 1810, Samuel Tibbals, Moses Cowles; 1812, Samuel Tibbals, Dan Andrews; 1813, Samuel Tibbals, Amasa Merriam; 1814, Samuel Tibbals, Marvel Andrews; 1816, Samuel Tibbals, Asahel Merriam; 1823, Samuel Tibbals, Elisha Curtis, Asahel Merriam; 1848, Edwin E. Curtis, Bryant Hotchkiss; 1863, Edwin E. Curtis, Asa H. Churchill; 1869, Edwin E. Curtis, Lemuel J. Curtis; 1885, Lemuel J. Curtis, George R. Curtis; 1888 George R. Curtis, Benjamin Page; 1893, Benjamin Page, George M. Curtis.

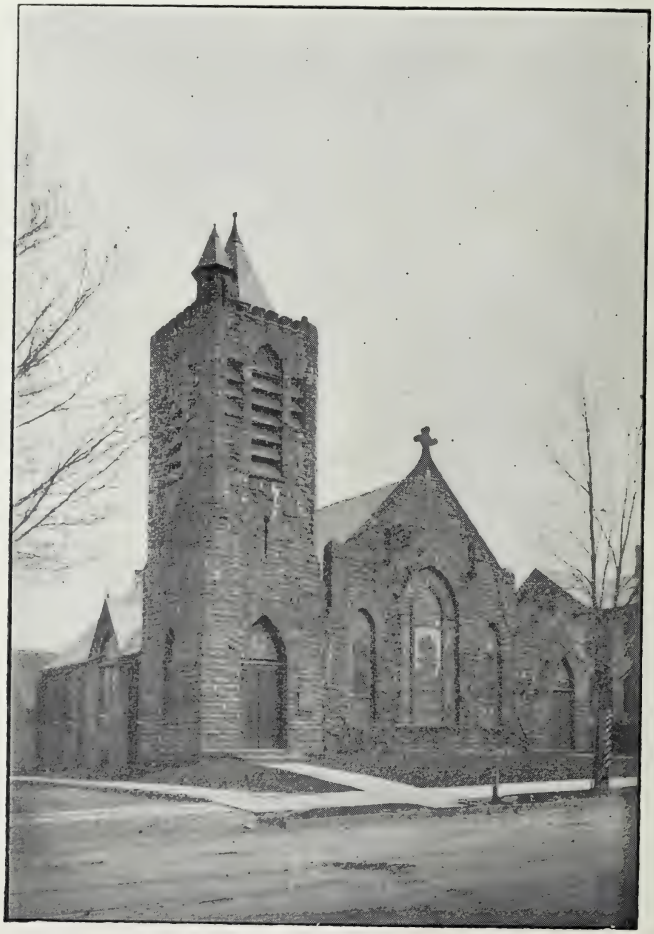
The officers of St. Andrew's Church in 1906 are as follows: parish clerk, A. B. Mather; senior warden, Benjamin Page; junior warden, George M. Curtis; vestrymen, Samuel Dodd, John W. Coe, W. W. Mosher, W. W. Clark, George S. Seeley, A. B. Mather, C. H. Fisk, E. B. Moss, W. J. Robinson; treasurer, George S. Seeley.

Rev. A. T. Randall, rector of St. Andrew's Church, was born at Poquetannock, Conn., September 23, 1854, and is a son of Rev. H. C. and Mary L. (Davis) Randall. He obtained his education at St. Stephen's College, Annandale, N. Y., from which he was graduated in 1877, and studied for the ministry at Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, Conn., graduating there June 2, 1880. Two days later he became the assistant minister of St. Andrew's parish in Meriden. He was ordained priest at Litchfield, Conn., June 7, 1881. Upon the death of Dr. Deshon, January 1, 1883, Mr. Randall became his active successor, and entered upon his duties as rector on Easter Sunday, 1884. From that time to the present writing Mr. Randall has fulfilled the duties of rector of this important parish, and he has always held the love and respect of his parishioners and the community at large.

ALL SAINTS' P. E. CHURCH.

Athough the present attractive edifice of All Saints' Protestant Episcopal Church, was not occupied for services until Ash Wednesday, 1893, some eight years or more previous it became evident that the erection of a church was definitely contemplated for that section of Meriden. The first service was

held in the dwelling house, 273 West Main street, on December 13, 1885, the officiating clergyman being Rev. A. T. Randall, rector, and F. H. Church, assistant rector of St. Andrew's parish. Services were continued in the small room of that dwelling house by congregations who were assembled there every Lord's Day for several months until a larger place of worship was secured at the junction of North First and South First streets. But services were continued at the latter place only until December, 1888, when they were discontinued owing to the fact that it was found impossible to heat the



ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL CHURCH.

room and there seemed no other suitable accommodations for the then so-called mission, in which to hold meetings.

Among the enthusiastic members of the new society were several women who formed a sewing circle and after the Sunday services were discontinued, and it began to look as though the forming of the new

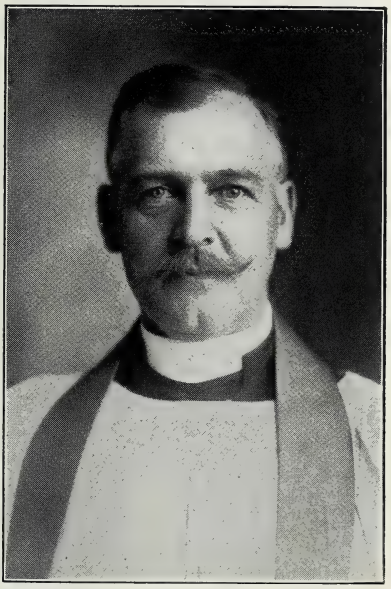


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. I. NEWTON PHELPS.

"mission church" would have to be abandoned, the sewing society still continued to meet week days; and as a result a considerable sum of money was laid by.

The ultimate aim of these patient women was the purchase of a lot on which to build a church and little by little the fund grew in spite of many discouragements. That their up-hill work was bound to be productive of even greater results than they had dared to hope was soon to come to pass. On January, 30, 1891, Mrs. Phoebe A. Hallam, a communicant of St Andrew's church was buried. In her will was found a legacy of $10,000 to be used in the building of a church as a memorial to her husband, the late Rev. R. A. Hallam, D. D., at one time rector of St. Andrews. The money in the treasury of the sewing society, added to considerably by the members of St. Andrew's church soon after became sufficient to purchase the lot on the corner of West Main and Morgan streets, and the future of All Saints' church was thus determined.

With the understanding that most of his work was to be in the western part of Meriden, and with a view of becoming rector of the new parish when it should be set apart, in May 1892, Rev. A. Sprague Ashley accepted the position of assistant clergyman at St. Andrew's Church. In the meantime Mrs. Hallam's legacy was largely added to by the late Geo. R. Curtis, then senior warden of St. Andrew's Church, so that the present brownstone structure was erected in 1893. The new parish was then formed and Rev. A. T. Randall, rector, transferred 123 communicants of St. Andrew's church to the spiritual care and oversight of Rev. A. Sprague Ashley who became first rector of All Saints' parish. The church was consecrated November 17, 1893. The

same year Mr. Curtis, just before his death presented the parish with the lot adjoining the church on West Main street for a rectory, and after his death through the generosity of his widow, on this lot, a parsonage was built as a memorial to her late husband. Thus from a small beginning has sprung from St. Andrew's Church, a thriving and independent parish with a church property valued at about $55,000, within a comparatively few years. During the valued service of Rev. Mr. Ashley, which was continued for about six years, there were 125 baptisms and 127 members confirmed, making a total membership then of about 250. Mr. Ashley was succeeded as rector by the late Rev. Robert Clarkson Tongue, who after five years as rector, was called to his reward by the Almighty. His death was much lamented for it removed from Meriden one of its most valued divines, and one who was almost idolized by his parishioners. Under Mr. Tongue the membership of the church was increased largely and its work was noticeably extended.

Rev. I. Newton Phelps took charge of the parish as its installed rector in April, 1905. The good work of his predecessors has been carried on by him and during his short pastorate sixty-five members have been received into the church by confirmation and 30 by letter. All Saints' parish at the present writing possesses about 535 communicants.

The officers of the church for 1906 are as follows: Treasurer, H. P. Vibert; senior warden, Charles P. Rice; junior warden, Albert Babb; vestrymen, H. L. Schleiter, H. P. Vibert, Joseph Ridley, F. A. Camp, Alfred Barker, James Toothe, F. W. Frisbie, G. W. Reynolds, A. J. Tickell; delegates to convention, Gardiner W. Reynolds, Joseph Ridley; substitute delegates, Charles H. Vibert, Curtis W. Reynolds; auditors, C. P. Rice, F. A. Camp.

Rector Phelps is a man of scholarly attainments and an able preacher of strong personality and social disposition. He obtained his education at Sampson college, graduating with the class of 1885, and was conferred the degree of A. M., by St. Stephens college, Annandale, N. Y. He studied for the ministery at Union Theological seminary, N. Y. Since coming to Meriden he has entered thoroughly into the spiritual and social life of the town and is held in high regard by the members of his parish and in the community at large. He is at the present writing senior warden of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH.

Although there were many Methodists in Meriden previous to 1830, it was not until 1844 that their regular society was organized. About 1830 a meeting house was erected on East Main street hill, on the land of Capt. Lyman Collins, just west of the entrance to the East Cemetery, where meetings were held somewhat

irregularly by the Methodists, and among the worshippers at that church were the following and their families: Charles Baldwin, who frequently occupied the pulpit; Darling Stewart, Noah Hall, Jesse G. Baldwin, Elias Baldwin and Seymour Baldwin. Owing to the good spiritual condition of the Congregationalists and Baptists, the early Methodist church did not begin to thrive in numbers until after 1842, when the "primitive Methodists" had sent preachers to Meriden, who availed themselves of the advantage gained in awakening religious interest by the general apprehension, then prevailing throughout the country, that the end of all things was near at hand. These revival meetings were held in what was known as the "Old Bethel" which was the name given a long shop owned by Chas. Parker, and which stood north of his offices, and where the congregations found sittings on boxes, which gave them a good view of the preacher. During the summer a large tent was pitched in what was then an open lot between High and Broad streets.

The society was formed under the management of Rev. John Parker, a member of the New England Conference, who settled in Meriden to recuperate his failing health, and to whom more than any other one man is said to be due the foundation of the Methodist church in Meriden. The society as first organized was composed of the following people of the town: Rev. John Parker and wife, Charles Parker and wife, Edmund Parker and wife, Hiram Brad-



FIRST METHODIST EDIFICE.

ley and wife, John Range and wife, William Curtis and wife, Mrs. Tryphena Bradley, Miss Betsey Parker, Mr. Beach and wife, Joseph Higby and wife, Asaph Merriam, Mrs. Partrick Lewis, Mrs. Cook and Miss Mariette R. Clark, then a member of the Methodist church, Middletown, who later married Rev. John T. Pettee. In 1847 a wooden church edifice was built by the society on Broad street, which many years later became, as it is at this writing, utilized for manufacturing purposes by the Chas. Parker Co. The same year that this church was built a parsonage was also erected, both buildings costing about $10,000. The church on Broad street continued to be occupied by the society until 1867 when under the judicious management of Rev. Freeman P. Tower, who served as pastor from 1866 to 1868, and through the princely generosity of the late Charles Parker, who gave $50,000, and the generous contributions of other brethren, the present costly and handsome edi-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

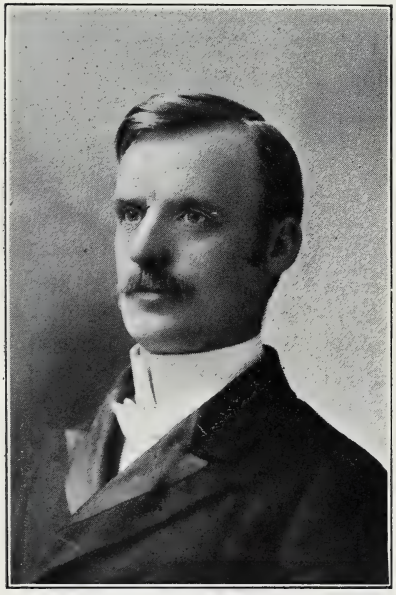
fice was built at a cost, including the land and organ of $85,000. The society removed to the new church at a most convenient time as the removal comprised Meriden's celebration of the Centennial of American Methodism. Although the society did not at first occupy the present edifice without a debt, the full amount of their obligations as paid under the pastorate of Rev. Daniel A. Goodsell, and in the spring of 1875, Rev. John T. Pettee, in his semi-centennial address stated that when the New York East Conference sat at this church in Meriden that "not an unpaid for brick or slate looked down from the roof or wall to reprove" them. In 1888 the church was remodeled and re-furnished to a considerable extent at the cost of $5,000, and under the administration of Rev. G. H. McGrew the ground beneath the church was excavated and social rooms were constructed; under the pastorate of Rev. John Rhey Thompson, D. D., the present handsome brick parsonage adjoining the church on Pleasant street was built. During his pastorate also a new and commodious domicile was provided for the church janitor, and a debt of $20,000 which had accumulated since 1874 was liquidated.

Under the pastorate of Rev. F. W. Hannan the church was re-carpeted and a commodious society house was built at the Plainville camp ground. About the same time, also, the church became possessed of its present beautiful lawn by the removal of the old Lawrence house. The present value of the church property is $101,200. The church membership at the close of the year 1905 was 675, fifty-two more being on probation. The Sunday school at that time numbered 339, including thirty-nine teachers. Since 1847 the First Methodist Church has received its pastors regularly from the New York and New York East Conferences. The pastors from 1845 to the present time have been as follows: Reverends Geo. A. Hubbell, John C. Searles, Albert Nash, Parmalee Chamberlain, Francis Bottome, Nathaniel Mead, Geo. C. Creevey, John L. Peck, Wm. McAllister, Geo. A. Hubbell (for a second time); Chas. Kelsey, Charles Fletcher, Frederick Brown, Freeman P. Tower, John Pegg, Jr., Daniel A. Goodsell, later made bishop; Wm. H. Boole, I. J. Lansing, B. M. Adams, J. S. Breckenridge, G. H. McGrew, M. W. Prince, John Rhey Thompson, F. W. Hannan, John Wesley Johnston, Frank A. Scofield and F. B. Stockdale; assistant pastors, Geo. C. Boswell, John A. Monroe and F. W. Hannan.

Rev. Fairbank Barnes Stockdale, pastor of the First Methodist church of Meriden, was born in 1861, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England. He came from the working people, his father being a miner, and he was raised among the coal mines of that locality. As a boy he showed a tendency to apply himself too closely to books. As a result, at eight years old he left

school and went to work as his health was not equal to day school, but continued until fifteen years of age at night school which he attended five days a week.

When only nine years old he was converted and became a member of the Methodist church, soon after which he became a reader of theological books. He preached his first ser-



REV. F. B. STOCKDALE.

mon at the age of fifteen, and from seventeen to twenty was engaged in evangelistic work in England, preaching as many as eight sermons a week. He first came to this country in 1882, and while enjoying a summer's vacation drifted into the East Ohio conference, which resulted in his remaining in this country. He took a three years' course at Drew Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1889 and while a student there preached at Centerville and Maplewood, N. J. One year before his graduation he was assigned a pastorate at Bellport, L. I., where he remained for three years, and joined the New York East Conference. He afterwards went to Flatbush, L. I., which pastorate he left at the end of one year on account of the poor health of his child. He was afterwards stationed at Port Washington, for four years; two years at Southampton, and later was pastor of the Fleet Street M. E. church at Brooklyn, N. Y., where he remained for four years. From there he went to Waterbury, Conn., and after remaining there three years, came to Meriden in April, 1905. Mr. Stockdale is a natural and fluent preacher and is highly appreciated by the members of his flock. He has published a book of sermons entitled "The Divine Opportunity." He is a lover of preaching and has frankly stated that everything he sees goes into his sermons. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.

He married Sarah A. Machin, who comes from a remarkably large family of twenty children, and to the union have been born George and Ruth, aged eighteen and sixteen years respectively.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

One of the flourishing church societies in Meriden is that of the

Trinity M. E. church which celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 1905. It was on April 26, 1885, that the Methodist residents of the western part of Meriden decided to petition the official board of the First M. E. Society, for the permission to found another Methodist church in Meriden. In May the same year, a petition was sent in, which was signed by five of the most influential men. As their request was granted, they immediately began holding services in the Y. M. C. A. building, and within eighteen months they had a church ready for occupancy, and on March 6, 1887, the first service was held therein. The building is now used for St. Joseph's Parochial school. Rev. W. F. Markwick, who was pastor of the South Meriden M. E. church, was secured early in the fall of 1885, and he served as pastor for both organizations, until 1887, when at the close of his pastorate in South Meriden, the conference decided to station him at Meriden. In April, 1889, he was succeeded by Rev. D. N. Griffin who remained until April, 1892. It was during the pastorate of Mr. Griffin that the society secured the property at the corner of West Main street and Cook avenue, where the present handsome edifice now stands. Rev. Edward W. Warriner was pastor from April 1892-94, when Rev. Henry Blatz, Jr., was sent by the conference to assume the pastorate of this society. During his successful pastorate the new church was erected and was dedicated December 29, 1895. Rev. W. D. Tuckey succeeded Rev. Mr. Blatz, and he in turn was succeeded by Rev. E. C. Carpenter, who was appointed pastor in 1900 and after a service of five years was succeeded by the Rev. John P. Wagner, the present pastor.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH.

During the pastorate of Mr. Carpenter the members raised over $13,000 and less than a year ago the mort-

gage notes were burned and the church was freed from a heavy debt. Many members have been received into the church within the last few years, and it now has a membership of about 375. It has a thriving Sunday School society,

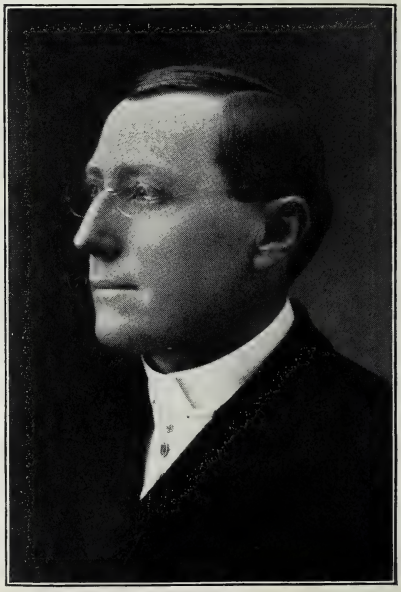


REV. E. C. CARPENTER.

both a Junior and a Senior C. E. Society and great interest is shown in all of the various societies that are connected with the church organization.

The probable value of the church building is $30,000 but this was enhanced in 1906 by the acquisition of a new church organ, a portion of which was paid for by Andrew Carnegie. The parsonage, a brick structure, originally built and occupied by the late Randolph Linsley, is valued at $12,000. During 1905, the church debt was reduced $4,000. The last report of the church corporation to the New York East Conference of which it is a member, gives the church membership as 300 with 67 on probation, but this number has since been somewhat increased. The Sunday school numbers twenty-seven teachers and 326 scholars.

Rev. John P. Wagner, pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, is a native of Iowa. In that state he spent



REV. J. P WAGNER.

his boyhood on his father's farm, receiving his early education in the public schools. He afterwards attended the Iowa Wesleyan University, where he graduated in 1883,

and he afterward took a law course there graduating in 1884. He was admitted to the bar and began practice of law, but after a time became a member of the St. Louis Conference and, in 1890 an ordained clergyman of the Methodist denomination. After having held several different pastorates in Illinois and Iowa, he came east and entered the Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, N. J., from which he was graduated in 1892, and since which time he has been a member of the New York East Conference. As a member of that conference his first charge was a church on Long Island. He afterwards became pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Simsbury, Conn., where he remained for a period of six years and in 1895 became the pastor at St. Paul's M. E. church, Waterbury, remaining there until appointed pastor of Trinity Church of this town, entering upon his duties here in April, 1906, succeeding Rev. E. C. Carpenter. Rev. Mr. Wagner was married to Miss Anna Axthelm Harper of Iowa, and they have four children: Elmer C. L., a student and member of the sophomore crew at Yale University; Bertha A., Edna M., and Grace V., the first two of whom graduate at the Waterbury High School in June, 1906. Mr. Wagner, with his family, occupies the Trinity M. E. parsonage and under his pastorate the church anticipates a successful period of continued prosperity.

THE SOUTH MERIDEN M. E. CHURCH.

For twenty years the Methodist Episcopal Church has been the only active Protestant church in the picturesque village of South Meriden, where regular services have been held. This church was organized as a society in 1851, but meetings were



REV. ROBERT J. BEACH.

held by Methodists occasionally and somewhat irregularly as early as 1839. They first gathered there for worship in the school house. Mar. 12, 1851. At the house of John Evans a determined effort was made and an ecclesiastical society which was called "The M. E. Society of the Hanover District," was form-

ed. John D. Parmalee was elected chairman and John Evans secretary. The building committee appointed to arrange and carry on the erection of the first edifice was made up of the following: John Davidson, Roger Smith and Luman A. Atkins. The building, a wooden structure of two stories, was also planned for residence purposes, and the upper story contained a hall and the "Methodist Preaching House." The building was completed in the fall of 1851 and its cost was $1,333. This building was used by the South Meriden Methodists for over twenty years, the preachers being Rev. John Parker of Meriden, who had previously done more than any other man in organizing the First Methodist Church of Meriden, and theological students of the Wesleyan Seminary from Middletown. It was not until 1871 that the society became possessed of a regularly installed pastor, in the person of Rev. William W. Hurd. During the first year of his pastorate the present church edifice was begun and it was completed in the summer of 1872. The cost of the church structure was $9,000, and of this amount George Bristol gave $2,000, John Evans $1,000, and Chas. Parker of Meriden, $400. The balance was raised by the members of the society and its friends. The new church was dedicated September 25, 1872 by Rev. C. N. Foss. After the dedication of the new church the society entered upon an era of prosperity and many influen-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

SOUTH MERIDEN METHODIST CHURCH.

tial members were added. Among these, in 1888, was the late Dr. H. A. Archer, a somewhat noted physician who resided in Tracy, and upon his suggestion a committee was formed for the purpose of enlarging the church. This committee was composed of the pastor, Dr. Archer, Silas Bradley, Frank Rollins, C. A. Hollister, William Baker, and E. B. Clark. Among the improvements was a lecture room built in the rear of the church which was also redecorated and otherwise improved. On March 10, 1889, the church was rededicated when it was also freed from debt. The church property at the present day has an approximate value of $13,000, and the society is possessed of a building at the Plainville Camp Ground. The full membership of the church is eighty-four and there are ten probationers. The Sunday school comprises eighty scholars, and seventeen officers and teachers. The present pastor of the church is Rev. R. J. Beach.

ST. ROSE'S CHURCH.

The organization of this parish dates back to 1849, although the nucleus was formed some ten years previous. There were, however, before that several foreign residents of the town. The building of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., to Meriden in 1839 resulted in bringing a number of Irish Roman Catholics to the town and they were gathered together first by mission priests, and services were then held in a private house in the northeastern part of the town. Later services were held by Rev. Phillip O'Reilley and by Rev. J. Teevens of New Haven, the latter of whom organized the little Catholic colony, and first celebrated mass for them in the house of Robert Clark on North Broad street in January, 1845. During the next four years and at intervals of about every three months, Rev. Father Teevens continued to celebrate mass, but in 1849 he obtained permission from the Bishop of Hartford to form a parish, the Hartford diocese at that time and for many years afterwards comprising all of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The church edifice used by this, the mother parish, was that originally occupied by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, then standing at the corner of Broad and Olive streets, and comprised a frame house, 36x45 feet in dimensions. This was vacated by the Episcopalians in 1850. Under the temporary pastorate of Rev. Hugh O'Reilley, who took charge of the parish work in 1851, and the first few years of that of Rev. Thomas Quinn, who in 1854 became the first regular settled rector, services were held in this edifice for nine years. Under the direction of Father Quinn, the construction of the present brick church on Center street was carried on at an outlay of $25,000. Father Quinn later went to Providence, R. I., and afterwards became a chaplain in the Civil War. He was succeeded

as rector of St. Rose's parish by Rev. Thomas Walsh, in the spring of 1859 at which time a considerable debt remained on the church building. Under Rev. Father Walsh the debt was removed and the parish grew rapidly necessitating, in 1868, the enlargement and improvement of the church which serving thus until his death in 1883. During his untiring service as rector the parish grew and prospered and at the time of his regretted decease, it ranked fourth among the Roman Catholic churches in the state. Under his pastorate the present parochial school was erected at the cost of $20,000.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.
ST. ROSE'S CHURCH.

were made at a further outlay of $30,000. Since that date other expenditures involving considerable money have been made, notably in 1882.

Father Walsh served as pastor of the church, becoming a vicar general, Father Walsh is said to have been "a devout, learned man, highly respected by the entire community." Under the pastorate of Rev. Martin P. Lawlor, the next rector of the parish, the present parochial residence was finished. He remained at St.

Rose's parish until February 1885, when Rev. Paul F. McAlenney began his most successful pastorate which was concluded in 1900. Father McAlenney is a man much beloved by the people, whose confidence and esteem he won by his zealous work and kindly consideration of the well being of his parishioners. Under his pastorate the church property was considerably enhanced and in 1888 St. Rose's chapel on Liberty street was completed. Father McAlenney's removal from the city was much deplored by his people by whom he is still affectionately remembered. St. Rose's parish since September 1900 has been presided over by the present rector, Rev. John Cooney. The property of St. Rose's parish in 1906 consists of a church edifice, rectory, two school houses, St. Bridget's Convent, St. Patrick's Cemetery and the Sacred Heart Cemetery, the approximate total value of all being $180,000.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. JOHN COONEY.

Although from this parish have sprung, directly or otherwise, all the several different parishes now contained in the town of Meriden, it still possesses 3,200 individuals and maintains an attendance at the parochial school of 700 registered children.

Rev. John Cooney, the present rector was born in the County of Armagh, Ireland, in, February, 1841. After obtaining his early education in his native town, he studied for the priesthood in the American College, Lourain, Belgium, where in 1867 he was ordained by Cardinal Sterks. After his ordination he came to this country and was appointed curate at St. Peter's Church in Hartford, where he remained for two and a half years. He was then transferred to St. Patrick's Church in Valley Falls, R. I., where he continued to serve as pastor until 1871, when he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Thompsonville, Conn., where under his direction both a parochial school and a rectory were built. In 1878 after a successful pastorate at Thompsonville, he was appointed rector of St. John's Parish, New Haven, where he remained for ten years. His next charge was at Colchester, Conn., where he remained for eight years, and during his service there he built a church in the neighboring town of Fitchville, and

a parochial school, which territory was contained in his parish. During his residence in Colchester, he also served as a member of the school board. In 1896 he became rector of St. Bernard's Church at Rockville, Conn., where he remained for four years, and during his pastorate there a large debt was considerably reduced. Since coming to Meriden, thirty-five acres adjoining Sacred Heart Cemetery have been added to the church property. Father Cooney has two assistants, Rev. L. A. Guinan, a native of Hartford, who has been attached to the present parish since 1895; Rev. J. J. McGivney, a native of Waterbury, was one of the curates at this church until 1891 when he became one of the Connecticut apostles and joined the mission band. He was succeeded by Rev. John A. Conlon, a native of New Haven.

ST. LAURENT'S CHURCH.

The first assemblage of the French-Canadian Roman Catholics of Meriden took place at the Young Men's Christian Association hall, June 2, 1880. As may be readily assumed the object of this first mass meeting of the French-Canadians was the formation of a new parish. Two hundred men were present with the result that a president and secretary were chosen and the following committee of organization was named, R. T. Chalifoux and L. Morrisseau, trustees; advisory board, N. Anger, R. Dessureau, D. Dolbec, Joseph Chalifoux and N. Lisee, according to the statutes of the diocese and becoming incorporated under the laws of the state. The formation of the parish is considered, however, to date from June 6, 1880, the Sunday following the first mass meeting, at which time Rev. A. van Oppen took charge of the parish, which then included not only the French, but the German, Polish and the Italian Catholics of Meriden. The parish was formed with some misgivings even then in regard to numbers, though the different collectors who had finished taking a census reported 1,150 individuals of the French speaking population. These serious doubts were entertained owing to the previous efforts to form a parish having proved futile. The French-Canadians, however, inspired by the presence of a rector of their own, made up their minds that it was then or never that the enterprise was to be assured. The first subscription of $100 was made with the understanding that the money should be refunded if the project failed but the sum of $3,500 was quickly subscribed. This fund was swelled to the extent of $600 by St. Jean the Baptiste Society, who thus came to the aid of the new parish.

On Palm Sunday, April 10, 1881, services were first held in the basement of the present St. Laurent's Church and were largely attended, Bishop Laurent McMahon, for



ST. LAURENT'S CHURCH.

whom the church was named, being one of the several notables present. On that day the first mass was celebrated by Rev. F. de Bruycker, and sermons were preached in English by Mgr. Shanahan, Bishop of Harrisburg and in the French language by Rev. L. G. Gagnier of Springfield who was then and is still the oldest French missionary in New England.

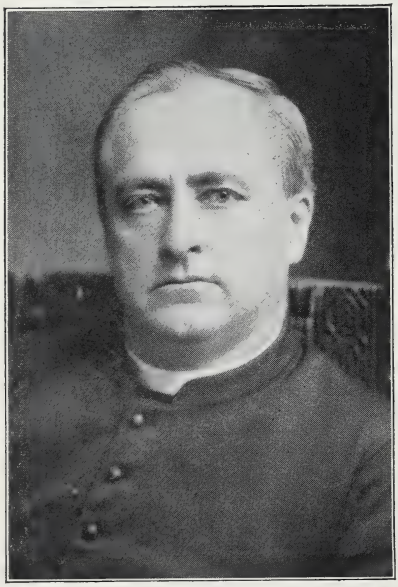


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. A. VAN OPPEN.

During this service, which was long to be remembered by those who attended, the parish was named.

The building of the superstructure was commenced by Father van Oppen in 1886 and the contract, involving an expenditure of $30,000 was let. Upon the completion of the edifice a solemn dedication took place Nov. 4, 1888, and this became a notable event in the history of the church; and then the bishop of the diocese and many visiting clergymen of the faith were also present. In 1882 St. Laurent's church acquired its first rectory which was purchased at a cost of $6,000, but that, since the completion of the present rectory, finished in 1892, has been occupied as a convent by the Sisters of the Assumption, whose headquarters are at Nicolet, P. Q. Since that date these sisters have conducted a parochial school, where the different branches have been taught by them, and the French language has also been propagated. The school was first conducted in the basement of the church, but in recent years a handsome school house has been erected by the parish at the cost of $10,000 and somewhat concerning it is stated in the article by William P. Kelly on Meriden's educational institutions, in one of the following pages. On March 13, 1900 the deeds of St. Laurent's Cemetery were passed to the church by M. J. Rodier and W. L. Henreux, and the French cemetery in the Hanover District was opened at once.

The present total value of St. Laurent's Church property is $105,000, and the lay trustees of the corporation are Dr. A. S. Alain and Zotique J. St. Cyr. At the present writing there are 1,850 parishioners. In June 1905, the parish celebrated its silver jubilee.

Rev. A. van Oppen, whose service as rector of St. Laurent's

Church parish covers a period of twenty-six years, is a man of scholarly attainments, speaks several languages fluently, and is a native of Holland. He was born in Heerlen Kingdom of Holland, and studied for the American missions at the American College of Lourain, Belgium, emigrating to the United States in November, 1875. His first charge was at Windsor Locks, where he served as curate, afterwards at the church at Putnam, Conn. His extended pastorate in Meriden has been a great blessing to his parishioners. The growth of the parish speaks volumes for his favorable work, and he is much beloved not only by the members of his present parish, but those of other nationalities, who, under his spiritual guidance and encouragement have been enabled to form other parishes in Meriden. St. Laurent's Church is of French Gothic architecture and has been minus a completed steeple, but this, a spire extending skyward over 160 feet, will be finished in the comparatively near future.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HOLY ANGELS' CHURCH AND RECTORY.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS.

This attractive suburban church of the Roman Catholic denomination is an offshoot of St. Rose's parish. The church was built under the pastorate of Rev. Paul F. McAlenney as a mission church to

accommodate the members of his parish residing in South Meriden, Tracy and Yalesville and who had found the distance too great from their homes to attend, very frequently, the services at St. Rose's church on Center street. The first pastor appointed was Rev. R. F. Moore, A. M., and during the following year adjoining land was purchased and the present church rectory built. the same, 350 individuals, since the first year after the church was built. The parish became independent of the mother parish in 1888 and since that time has been entirely self supporting. In 1896 Rev. Fr. Moore removed to New Britain and became pastor of St. Joseph's church, leaving behind him the affectionate regard and respect of his parishioners. He was succeeded as



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

This church property is now valued at about $12,000 and at this writing there remains a debt of $1,500 which is gradually being reduced. As the church of the Holy Angels is the only church of its denomination between Meriden and Wallingford, its services became well attended from the first but its membership has remained approximately rector by Rev. Patrick Byrne, who came to the South Meriden church from Thomaston where he had been previously located. He remained pastor for a period of two years and then went to New Canaan, Conn. Rev. Thomas Cronan became the next pastor, also remaining two years when he went to New Milford. The present pastor, Rev. James W. Cunningham,

came to South Meriden from West Thompson, after having been previously connected with a church at Putnam, Conn., and he has met here with the hearty support of a loyal people in ministering to their spiritual wants and by whom he is held in high regard.

ST. MARY'S GERMAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

This parish of the Roman church, and in which is propagated the German language, was established in Meriden by Bishop McMahon of Hartford, and was organized March 12, 1890. At that time services in the German tongue were held in the basement of St. Laurent's Church, where services in the French language were also held, as they were before that time and have been since. Previous to that date there were several German families of the Roman Catholic faith in Meriden, but it was not until the Rev. Ignatius Kost was appointed rector of the new parish that the Germans of this faith became united to any considerable extent.

Under Father Kost money sufficient to begin the erection of the present church edifice was raised, and this was dedicated Dec. 6, 1891. The church is a wooden structure and comprises both a place of worship and a school, the latter being opened in 1896, and in which at the present writing 220 pupils are taught in German by four Sisters of Mercy. The entire parish comprises about 250 families or approximately 1,250 individuals. The church is incorporated and owns all of its property without incumbrance. The lay trustees of the corporation are Paul T. Saleski and John Kopske, Sr.

Since the church was built there has been acquired an adjoining parsonage and additional land, the latter

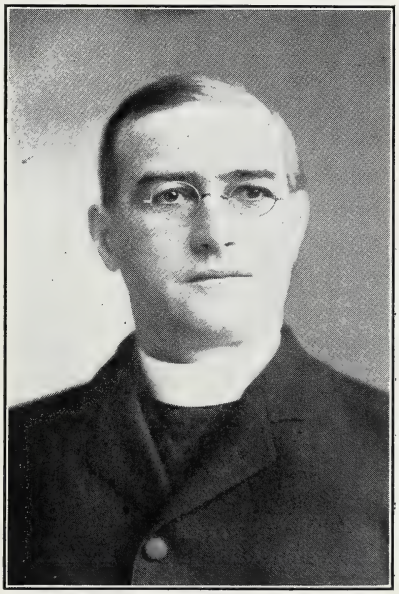


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

REV. N. F. X. SCHNEIDER.

fronting on Grove street, upon which a new and permanent church edifice may be erected at some future time, there being in the hands of the present rector, Rev. Nicholas F. X. Schneider, the nucleus of a necessary fund, or about $3,000. The present rector of the church assumed his charge after having served as assist-

ant pastor at New Britain. He is said to be held in high regard by his parishioners.

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL.

This house of worship at which the Italian residents of the Roman Catholic faith of Meriden receive their spiritual food was erected in 1894. The church, which is located on Goodwill avenue, on the boarder of the Italian district of Meriden, is shown in the accompanying illustration. Before the formation of the present parish the Italians of Meriden attended principally the St. Laurent's Church on Camp street, but to that church their attendance was not entirely confined. The creation of the parish was a source of much spiritual comfort to the sons of Italy and gradually it has grown in membership until at the present writing it numbers according to the figures of the present pastor, about 2,200 souls. The church property consists in 1906 of the church edifice only, which was dedicated in 1894 and valued at $4,500, and upon which $1,200 was expended in 1905-6 in repairs and improvements. The parish is incorporated under the laws of the state and the lay trustees are Leonordo Suzio and Pasquale Iannetti. The Sunday school is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy from St. Bridget's Convent, but the parochial day school is yet a thing of the future.

The different rectors of the parish have been as follows: Father Morelli, under whose pastorate the church was built; Rev. Antonio de Falco, Victorio Sarilla,, Father McLaughlin, who though of Irish birth also spoke Italian, and the present pastor, Rev. Antonio DeSimone,



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH.

who was appointed rector of the parish and commenced his duties as such April 2, 1905. Father DeSimone has accomplished much for the parish in a comparatively short time, and receives the undivided support of his parishioners. He is a

man of gentle manners and sympathetic nature, and the worshippers at his church hold him in affectionate regard. He was born at Caiazzo, Province of Casserta, Italy, April 13, 1871 and was educated for the priesthood at the seminary in his native town, where he was also ordained in 1894, and was first a curate at the Church of San Giovanni e Paolo. In 1903 he emigrated to this



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. A. DE SIMONE.

country and was appointed one of the assistants at the cathedral at Albany, N. Y., and during his two years' service there he looked after the spiritual wants of the Italians of the capitol city of the Empire state.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

This now thriving parish of the Roman Catholic church was organized in October, 1901, and is an offspring of St. Rose's parish, having been made a parish by itself by Bishop Tierney of Hartford. The first services were held in the little chapel on West Main, near the corner of Butler street, formerly occupied by the Trinity Methodist Church, but which had for some time been used as a chapel of ease by the mother parish. Rev. John T. Lynch, to the good fortune of the parishioners, was made first pastor, and under his leadership it has thrived and prospered, and now comprises 2,700 souls. The territory set off for St. Joseph's parish comprised that part of Meriden west of the N. Y., N. H., & H. Railroad. Almost immediately after the appointment of a rector, the little chapel where services were first held became overtaxed, and plans were formulated for a new church.

The committee appointed for that purpose was made up of the following: John A. Hurley, Roger Crough, William Lewis, Michael Keating, M. F. Fitzgerald, M. G. Reynolds, Henry Cashen, Chas. McGuire, John McWeeney, Cornelius J. Danaher, John F. Butler, Wm. B. Cashen, J. J. McMahon, John T. McLoughlin and M. F. Morrissey. The first lay trustees of the corporation were John A. Hurley and C.

J. Danaher, but after the former's removal from the city, he was succeeded by John McWeeney. In 1902 the new parish became possessed of a most desirable location for the new church and a proposed residence and adjoining buildings on the property was immediately begun, and the foundation for the new church, as yet uncompleted, was started, the corner stone of which was laid on October 12,



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

new rectory, in a section of the old Goodwill homestead property, and now bounded by West Main street, Goodwill and Lewis avenues. The work of tearing down the historic

1902. The basement chapel was completed in March, 1903, and since that date services have been there held. The completion of the church entire was postponed by

Father Lynch to avoid heavy interest on money that would have been necessary for the work. Fr. Lynch originally planned to spend $70,000 on the new church, but when the auditorium is finished,

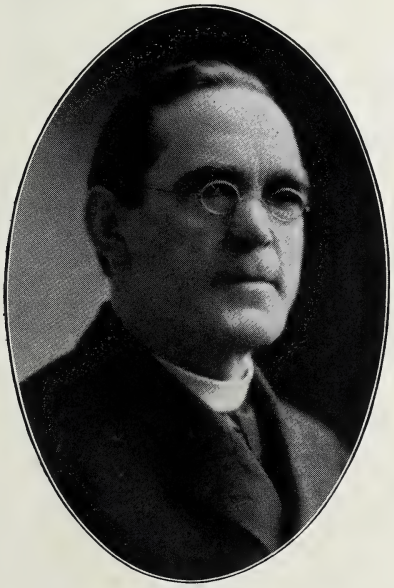


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. JOHN T. LYNCH.

which it bids fair to be at no distant date, a sum somewhat in excess of that amount will have represented the cost of the fully completed edifice.

Since the new church became occupied, the little chapel, which is also owned by the corporation, was converted into a parochial school of five rooms, where studies from the first to the sixth grades have since been taught to about 260 children of the parish, by five Sisters of Mercy from St. Bridget's convent. Another acquisition of the new parish is a lot on North First street and North Avenue, which comprises a most desirable location for church purposes. After the completion of St. Joseph's church, the building of a rectory will be begun and this will be situated in the rear of the church in the comparatively near future.

St. Joseph's parish has now, besides its regular pastor, two assistants, Rev. John F. Donohue, a native of Litchfield, and Rev. Wm. J. Judge, who was born and brought up in Hartford. Rev. Father Lynch, in addition to presiding over his parish, with his assistants, looks

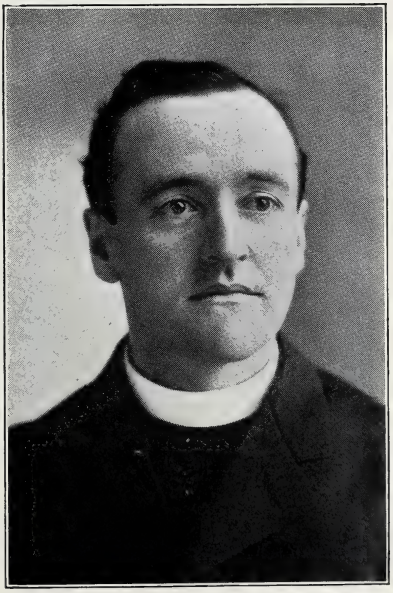


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. JOHN F. DONOHUE.

after the spiritual needs of the Catholic inmates of the Conn. School for Boys. The Sunday school of St. Joseph's Church comprises about 500 members. An idea of the growth of the parish can be gained when it is stated that during the month of April, 1906, mission services held there attracted as many as 1,000 men at each service held for them, and a

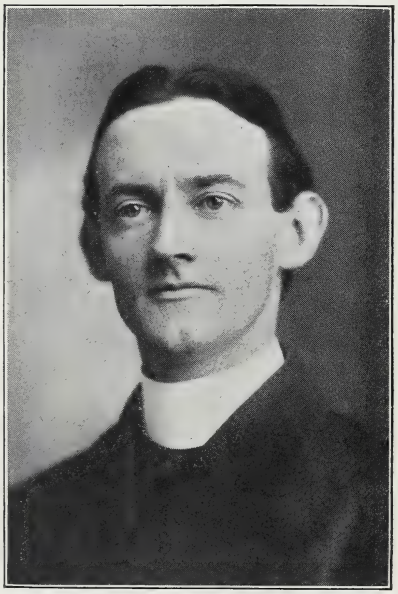


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
REV. WILLIAM J. JUDGE.

larger number of women during the women's mission.

Rev. John T. Lynch was born in Waterbury, January 24, 1857, and was educated in the public schools of Ansonia, and the Collegiate and Theological departments of Niagara University, being ordained June 19, 1886. He began his career as a clergyman as assistant at St. John's church, Stamford, and was afterwards transferred to St. Peter's Church, Hartford, where he remained for a period of ten years. When a new parish was formed at Wethersfield, he became its first rector, and while located there remodeled the church and bought the land upon which he built a rectory. During his pastorate at Wethersfield and while connected with St. Peter's Church, Hartford, he served as chaplain at the Connecticut State Prison. Since coming to Meriden his tireless work has resulted in the remarkable growth of the parish and large acquisitions of church property in a comparatively short time. He is greatly beloved and respected by his parishioners and is also held in high regard in the community.

ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

One of the more imposing houses of worship in Meriden is St. Paul's Universalist Church, a handsome structure from an architectural point of view, the corner stone of which was laid in 1891, the dedication taking place September 27, 1893. The present edifice was erected during the pastorate of Rev. W. S. Perkins, D. D., at an approximate cost of $100,000, the late Isaac C. Lewis, who in later years was for a considerable time superintendent of the Sunday school, being one

of the large contributors, not only to the building itself, but presenting the set of chimes which, from the church tower, have in tuneful peals ever since resounded for the benefit of the citizens of the town and vicinity.

The Universalist society was organized May 30, 1854, but previous to that meetings were held at the house of Noah Pomeroy, where also the first sermon in Meriden by a Universalist minister, Rev. Mr. Brooks was preached. Rev. James Gallager was the first regular pastor of the society, and signed to the constitution the following names are found: Noah Pomeroy, Calvin Coe, E. E. Smiley, Wm. H. Golden, John S. Blake, Moses Waterman, Isaac C. Lewis, J. V. Thayer, B. F. Stevens, Edwin Dayton, Monroe Barnes, John L. Ives, B. R. Stevens, H. E. Welton, James T. Pomeroy, E. R. Aspinwall, John C. Marion, J. U. Foster, Charles Pomeroy, N. W. Pomeroy, Phillip S. Pelton, P. S. Bliss, jr., Silas Gladwin, G. E. Leonard, Aaron Gardner and J. P. Lewis.

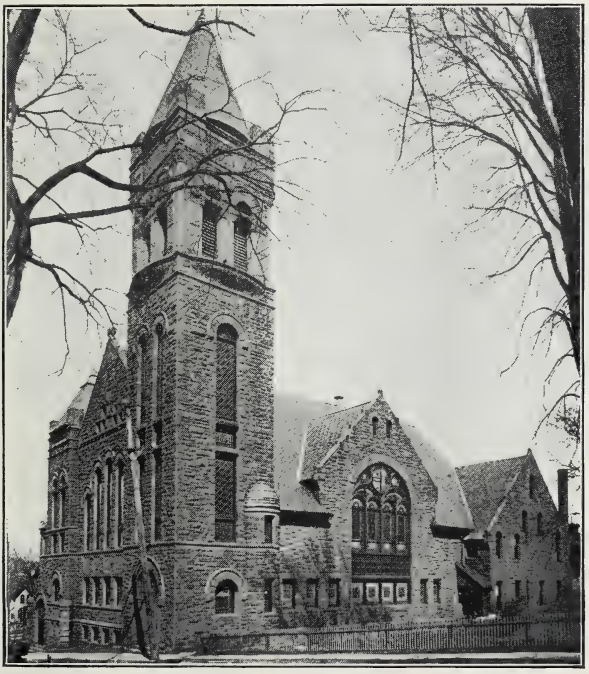
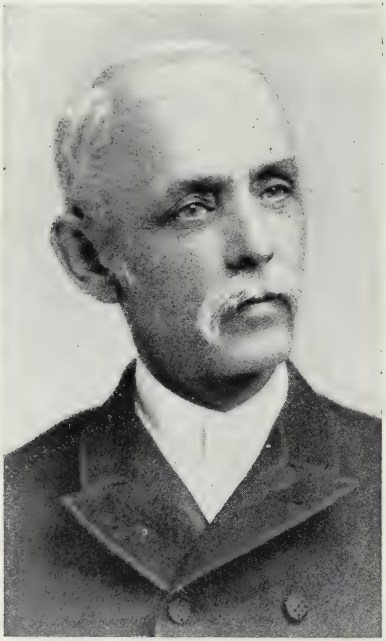


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

In April, 1855, the society had become increased by thirteen members, but it was not until December 5, 1860, that the first edifice was

erected and dedicated. The building committee of this first Universalist church was composed of Dr. T. F. Davis, Isaac C. Lewis, Silas Gladwin, Moses Waterman and Robert Hoadley. The whole cost



REV. J. H. CHAPIN, PH. D.

of the first building including carpets and furnishings was $9,214.18 and at the time of the dedication the church had a debt of $4,432.46. It is said that of the sixty-six persons who contributed to the erection of the first Universalist church, but forty-eight of them were avowed Universalists.

This church, a wooden structure of unprepossessing appearance, stood where St. Paul's church now stands, fronting on Norwood street, but was moved to the northeast corner of Liberty and Norwood streets when the erection of the new church was begun and services were continued there until the present church was completed. Since the winter of 1904, when the town hall was destroyed by fire, the old church building has been occupied as a temporary town hall, and used for both town and city offices, as it is at this writing.

Rev. Frederick Foster was the first pastor to occupy that pulpit, and he



REV. J. HARRY HOLDEN.

was followed, Nov. 1, 1862, by Rev. J. H. Farnsworth, who presided over the flock for seven years and placed the society on a permanent basis, for during his pastorate and with thirty-six members the church became perma-

nently organized, June 20, 1863. Rev. Martin J. Steere became the next settled pastor becoming located here in 1869, and remaining until 1873, when the late Rev. James Henry Chapin, Ph. D., was secured. Dr. Chapin resigned on account of protracted ill health in 1885, and during his pastorate 149 persons received the right hand of fellowship and 148 children were baptized. During his pastorate also a new organ, one of the finest in the city, was placed in the church at a cost of $4,000. Dr. Chapin was a scholarly man who exerted a great influence in the community. He showed a profound interest in educational and philanthropic matters. He was succeeded by Rev. C. A. Knickerbocker, also an effective preacher and whose pastorate was marked by increasing congregations, and during the four years of his ministry the question of a new church was first agitated.

Rev. W. S. Perkins, D. D., followed Rev. Mr. Kickerbocker as the next settled pastor and his ministry in Meriden exceeded in length of service that of any other man in the history of the church. Dr. Perkins was a strong preacher and possessed a kind and sympathetic nature, and during his successful pastorate many new members were received into the church. His work in the cause of Universalism resulted in a continued growth of the church and he will be long remembered by the people of the town.

The parish at the present writing has a membership of about 300 and possesses a Sunday school of 200. Rev. J. Harry Holden was installed as pastor succeeding the Rev. Mr. Perkins as regular pastor, May 1, 1903. He was born at Middlesex, Vt., March 18, 1861, was educated at Goddard Seminary, afterward taking a course at the Academic Department of Tufts College, from which he received the degrees of A. B., B. D., and A. M., and where he later studied for the ministry, graduating in theology in 1888. His first pastorate was at Amherst, Mass. He afterwards went to Attleboro, Mass., and after presiding over the church there for some years accepted the call to St. Paul's Universalist Church. While at Amherst, Mr. Holden, in addition to his pastoral duties, served as superintendent of schools, and at Attleboro was for four years a member of the school board. He is a member and chaplain of Meridian Lodge 77, A. F., & A. M., and has become a prominent figure in the promotion of Universalism and social life in Meriden.

He was married in South Boston, Mass., June 11, 1889 to Grace Lucas and they have four children as follows: Charlotte, Kathryn, James Henry and Kenneth Winslow Holden.

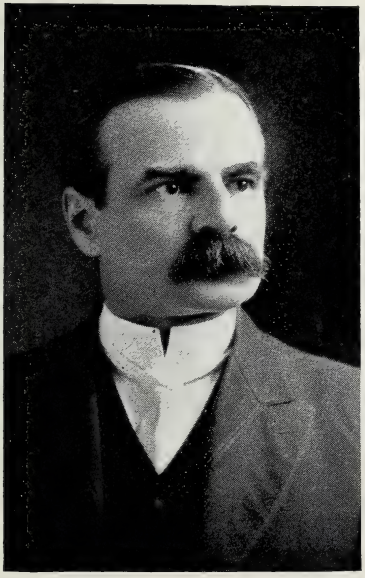
ST. JOHN'S GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This, the mother church of the evangelical Lutheran denomination in Meriden, was organized in the



ST. JOHN'S GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

court room of the town hall, on Nov. 6, 1865. The first service at which a sermon was delivered by a pastor, was held December 25, the same year in the old Episcopal Church on South Broad street. The first pastor of this church society was Rev. G. Guericke, but he resigned the following year and returned to Germany. The second pastor, Rev.



REV. S. F. GLASER.

G. A. Schmidt, of Utica, N. Y., arrived in Meriden Oct. 1, 1866, but was not installed until the first church edifice, which had been for some time in the process of construction, was dedicated, March 5, 1867. Rev. C. A. Graeber, the next pastor, and who came here from Rockville, was installed August 22, 1869, his service as such continuing until April 1, 1886, when his resignation took effect. His successor was Rev. A. Krafft of Otto, N. Y., who was installed pastor of St. John's church April 16, 1886, and who remained as such until July 10, 1890, when he left to accept a call to the Lutheran church at Fischerville, Can. Rev. William Koepchen of New Haven, who almost immediately afterwards received a unanimous call from the Meriden church, was installed as pastor August 10, 1890. The erection of the present imposing edifice at the corner of Liberty and Norwood streets, was determined upon just previous to the coming of Mr. Koepchen but the corner stone was laid at the end of his first year, on August 30, 1891, its dedication occurring March 13, 1892.

During his successful pastorate also, in 1897, the parsonage on Liberty street was purchased by the church corporation and in 1899 a commodious and comfortable parish house was erected in the rear of the parsonage by the Young People's and Ladies' Aid societies. In the same year, a very desirable tract of land containing eight acres and fronting on Roberts and Bee streets, just off East Main street, was purchased and has since been used by St. John's parish as Gethsemane cemetery, being one of the city's most beautiful plots for the purpose for which it has been designated.

Rev. S. F. Glaser, the present pastor of the now thriving congre-

gation, succeeded Rev. Mr. Koepchen and was installed in March, 1900; and in the intervening years the church has increased largely in membership. During the year 1902 the church replaced its defunct organ with one of magnificence and modern construction at a cost of $3,500. The church congregation possesses property at the present writing to the value of about $55,000. The present church building, a most imposing structure of brick with brownstone basement and trimmings and cathedral glass windows, is of true Gothic architecture, and has a seating capacity of 800. The extreme width of the aisles, however, makes it possible for about 200 more to be accommodated when occasion demands. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Glaser, the attendance at the morning services, which are held in German, averages between 500 and 600, and on the last Palm Sunday, there were about an even 1,000 people seated in the church. During the past three years, and owing to the fact that many members of the congregation have married Americans, the evening services have been held in English, a most popular innovation introduced by the present pastor. There are both male and mixed choirs at St. John's Church, and the music there rendered is of high order. The congregation now comprises 1,400 souls and there are 845 confirmed communicants, 185 comprising the adult male members who decide the matters of the church by vote. For many years there has been maintained by this church a parochial school which is held in three rooms of the basement and where, besides all the branches taught in the public schools a thorough course in German is also given. This school is maintained by St. John's church, knowing it to be the sacred duty to give its children a thorough Christian education and training. The teachers are: C. A. Burgdorf, principal; Miss Elise Flora Sternberg and Miss Marguerite Nagel, assistants. The church Sunday school comprises 300 children and of this the pastor is the superintendent and C. A. Burgdorf is the assistant.

The church council comprises the following: Rev. S. F. Glaser, chairman; Albert Abel, clerk; and John W. Katt treasurer. The elders are Edward Schwarz and Carl Schoenrock, the deacons, Herman Ketelhut, Karl Schroeder and Herman Rufleth. The trustees of the corporation are Chas. Sternberg, Albert Maronde, Albert Abel, John W. Katt and William H. Nagel, president.

The present pastor, Rev. Samuel F. Glaser, was born in Adrian, Mich. and attended Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Ind., from which he was graduated in 1885, after taking the regular classical course embracing the studies of the ancient languages, including Latin, Greek and Hebrew, he afterwards took a three years' course at Concordia University at St. Louis, where he prepared for the

ministry, and from which he received his diploma in 1888. Mr. Glaser came to this city from Ashland, Ky., and his pastorate here has met with the hearty co-operation of a large congregation. Mr. Glaser is a man of intellectual attainments and through his ability as a preacher, organizer and aptitude for his profession has the church been brought to its present state of prosperity.

IMMANUEL GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This now thriving evangelical church congregation possessing at the present writing a valuable church property and parsonage adjoining at the corner of Hanover street and Cook avenue, sprang from St. John's German Lutheran Church in 1889. It was in that year that thirty-six families formed the new society, it being their desire to worship under the jurisdiction of the old synod which is the Ministerium of New York, and the adjacent states under the General Council of the Lutheran Church of North America. The first meetings of the society were held at the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, where after the first few months of services presided over by Rev. Emil Wittmann, Rev. C. R. Tappert became the regular pastor.

A building lot had been purchased in the present location and in 1890 the corner stone of the church was laid by Mr. Tappert. The church when completed and dedicated began immediately to show a remarkable progress in membership and spiritual prosperity. Two years later it was deemed advisable to buy several lots adjoining that upon which the church had been built. The land was little more than a swamp and was an excellent resort for a large congregation of lusty throated frogs. The pastor, however, saw great possibilities to be obtained from improving the land, and at a large expense the same was filled in and the same year, in 1892, the additional land was purchased, there were built thereon the present church parsonage and carriage sheds, thereby greatly improving that section of the city. In 1897 the prosperity and growth of the church warranted a further outlay of $3,000 which was spent in remodeling and beautifying the interior to a considerable extent. After the several improvements had been made the church society had a debt of $14,000, reduced to $5,000 at this writing, and continuing to be reduced at the rate of $1,000 a year, without any special effort on the part of the society, from its regular income. This has been accomplished without the holding of fairs or other entertainments and the reduction of the debt has been in a measure accomplished from the proceeds of an established debt fund. The church has ever been a most harmonious organization and its

growth in membership somewhat remarkable.. At the present writing there are 600 communicants. school which has an average attendance of 125 children, who attend the public schools the balance of the



GERMAN LUTHERAN IMMANUEL CHURCH.

The Sunday School possesses a membership of 225. There is also conducted at the church a Saturday week. The teachers at the Saturday school are the pastor, Miss Meta Kreft, instructor at the Pe-

quod Business College, and Miss Lena Knapp, teacher at the Public school of Plantsville. The church possesses a ladies' society of ninety-seven members and a young people's society of about the same membership.

Rev. C. R. Tappert, the pastor, was born in Hameln, Germany in



REV. C. R. TAPPERT.

1866, and comes from a good old family in Germany, tracing his ancestry back to the year 1567. He graduated at the Theological school, Kropp, Germany, and while still too young to become an ordained clergyman came to this country and took charge of a congregation at Greenport, L. I. He was ordained by the Ministerium and installed as pastor of St. Peter's Church. He afterwards founded Trinity German Lutheran church in New York city with but nine members, which afterwards became a thriving society under his leadership. The history of this church reveals a creditable work by its pastor. Mr. Tappert exerts a great influence in the community; for he is also pastor of the First Evangelical Lutheran church in Southington, which pulpit he also fills for that society. He stands high in his denomination and is a member of the board of examination of the synod.

Mr. Tappert has two brothers in the ministry, the Revs. Gustave and Ernest T., both having charges in New York City. One of his sisters holds an important position in the Lutheran Deaconess home, Philadelphia. Mrs. Tappert is a native of Greenport, L. I. Her family is also well represented in the Lutheran clergy. One of her brothers, Rev. W. Drach, is pastor in Syracuse, N. Y. Another, Rev. G. Drach, formerly pastor of an English Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, now holds the important position of general secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Council of the Lutheran Church of America.

SWEDISH LUTH. CHURCH.

As early as 1878 Meriden contained in its population a number of Swedes

of the evangelical Lutheran faith, and an attempt, which finally proved unsuccessful, to establish a permanent Swedish society, was made about that time under the leadership of Dr. Ludwig Holmes.

The first Swedes began to arrive in Meriden about 1865 but for the first ten years their numbers were few.

About 1878 there was organized a Swedish branch of the Y. M. C. A., which for a time conducted Swedish services in the homes and other places. They also maintained a Swedish circulating library of fair size. These first services were led principally by Dr. Ludwig Holmes, of Portland, Conn., pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church there, then the only Swedish church in Connecticut. Dr. Holmes later lived in the west for a number of years but a few years ago returned to the church in Portland over which he still presides. He is now one of the foremost ministers in the Swedish Lutheran church of the United States and is also a poet of some note.

It was not until the Swedish Lutherans had become reinforced by several families of their nationality that the present permanent organization became effected. Services were first held in St. John's Lutheran church and later in German Immanual Lutheran church, Bethany chapel on Britannia street and Y. M. C. A. hall. The nucleus of the present organization was formed March 22, 1889.

The society was reorganized Feb. ruary 18, 1890, as Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel congregation, and the present church really dates its history from that day. The society became incorporated the same year.

The first officers were: Deacons, C. A. Wickstrand, Peter Fohlin and Ewald Thoren; trustees, Peter Fohlin, C. A. Wickstrand, Ferdinand Anderson; secretary, J. Alfred Sjoquist.

Meriden was at first a missionary field and preaching services at frequent intervals were conducted by Rev. O. W. Ferm, then of New Britain, but now in Sioux City, Iowa. He was followed by Rev. C. J. Bengtson, of Hartford, now of Rockland, Ill. Others who were not ordained clergymen but divinity students, the last of whom was Rev. K. A. Martin, now of Schenectady, N. Y., by whom money sufficient to buy a building lot was raised, followed in conducting preaching services and until 1893, when Rev. A. F. Wicklund, then studying for the ministry, but now an ordained clergyman in Sweden, became the first resident pastor.

Under his leadership money was subscribed with which to begin the construction of the church edifice on the lot previously purchased at the corner of Center and Miller streets, where now stands the handsome church edifice. The building committee was composed of the following:

John Anderson, John Wessman, Otto E. Helin, Peter Anderson, Gustaf Swenson, Ferdinand Anderson.

Although Mr. Wicklund succeeded in making the present church a certainty he did not remain in Meriden long enough to see it dedicated and

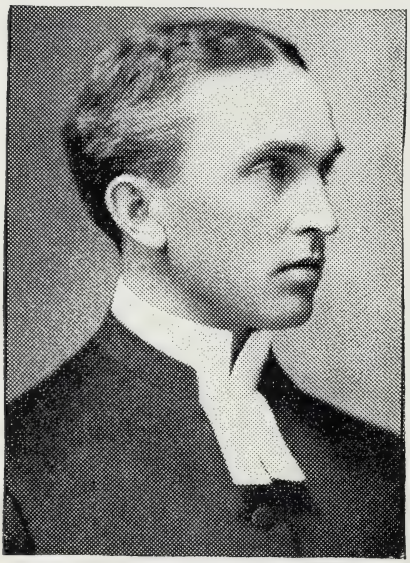
his successor, Rev. Julius Lincoln, became the first pastor in the new church. He preached his first sermon on the morning of June 16, 1895, and on the afternoon of the same day the corner stone of the building was laid with appropriate ceremonies which were largely attended. Rev. Mr. Lincoln was an American by birth and a young man of somewhat remarkable ability as a preacher. He was ordained to the ministry of Augustana synod at Moline, Ill., and the Swedish Lutheran church here was his first charge. During his pastorate, on October 27, 1895, the church was dedicated. He remained in Meriden but a year, after which, much to the regret of his fast-growing flock, he accepted a call to a pastorate at Jamestown, N. Y.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.
SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Prof. Philip Andreen, then a divinity student, but who afterwards became an ordained clergyman, and at

present the pastor of a thriving parish in San Francisco, California, of the Swedish Lutheran denomination, became the next pastor, and for a time filled the pulpit of the newly erected church. Upon his removal from Meriden, his brother, Alexis Andreen, also a student of theology, afterwards ordained a clergyman, and at this writing presiding over a church at Clinton,



REV. DAVID FRIDLUND.

Iowa, was the next to fill the pulpit. He was succeeded by Rev. O. J. Andrews, who was regularly installed in the pastorate, remaining for a period of five years. Much to the regret of the people here he finally accepted an urgent call to locate in Englund, Minn., but he afterwards returned to Connecticut and is now located in Ansonia.

Rev. David Fridlund, the present pastor, became Mr. Andrews' successor in 1904. The growth of the church in membership has been somewhat notable. From the time when the society became under its present permanent organization it had but thirty-three members, which has since been increased to about 300 at the present writing. There is a Sunday school of 100, and during the summer months there is a day school maintained in the church by the society. The church became an incorporated organization in 1890 and the approximate value of the property is now $9,000. The deacons of the church are Otto E. Helin, J. Alfred Person and Linus P. Carlson.

The trustees of the corporation are John Wessman, Martin Johnson, Gustav H. Johnson, Albert Holmgren, Gustav Kugge and M. A. Wickstrand. The church secretary is Otto E. Helin. There are two important societies of the church, the ladies' society and the young people's society. The former, of which Mrs. C. G. Anderson is president, and Mrs. Andrew Kugge, vice-president, is composed of all the ladies of the church. The officers of the young people's society are: President, Fritz Ekdahl; financial secretary, J. Adolph Johnson; secretary, Alton Parks, and treasurer, C. J. Lundstrum.

Rev. David Fridlund, the present pastor of the church, was born in Sweden in 1869, and was brought to this country by his parents who located at Manistee, Mich., when he was quite

young. He was educated at public schools, later attending Bethany College, Lindsburg, Kan., and prepared for the ministry at the Theological Seminary of the Augustana college at Rock Island. Meriden is his first pastorate.

THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

There has been a Hebrew religious society in Meriden since 1887 and the structure comprising the present synagogue was erected in 1891 at a cost of $5,000. This society has grown to 125 members from small beginnings and the founder was Meyer Abraham, who was the fourth orthodox Hebrew to take up his residence in Meriden, and in his house the first services of his faith here were held. The first Hebrew to come to Meriden was Abraham Harris, who is an industrious tailor and came here with his family about 1872. The second Jewish family was that of which H. Holtz was the head and he was followed by Heiman Goldstein. Meyer Abraham was attracted to Meriden in 1885 and after his friend Samuel Edlemann also took up his residence here, these two took it upon themselves to attract others of their faith to this city, their object being the foundation of a synagogue. In 1889 Meyer Abraham, in his name, secured a charter and he became the first president of the society, and has served in that capacity for nine years in all, being the present incumbent of the office. It was in 1887 that Abraham Siskind, a man exceedingly well educated and held in great respect by his people, was chosen rabbi by the society and he has since filled that office without pay and in accordance with the Jewish custom has settled all disputes and conducted the marriages of his



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

people. Services are held in the synagogue, which is located at 43 Cedar street, once every Friday evening and three times on Saturday. There, as in other Jewish synagogues, the prayer takes a most important part in the services for which he receives a liberal salary,

S. Leiberman serving in that capacity at the present writing. People of the Jewish faith become members of this society by vote of its members, three black balls being sufficient, however, to keep out those not desired. The society pays a funeral benefit and a certain stipulated sum is collected regularly from its members for the maintenance of the society. The services are always private and none but members are permitted to take part. The Old Testament only is the Bible used. In addition to the services of the synagogue, on every week day except Saturday and Sunday, there is held from the hours of 4 to 8 p. m., a day school where the Hebrew language and bible are taught by experienced teachers, and where ninety pupils are now receiving daily instruction from Principal Lewis Ginsberg. Day school is also held there on Sundays from 9 in the morning to 2 in the afternoon. The society is now an incorporated body and its property, with the exception of a debt of $615, is held free and clear.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

MEYER ABRAHAM.

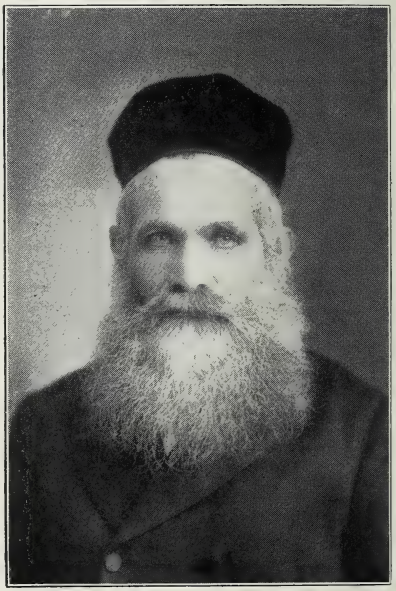


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

RABBI SISKIND.

THE THIRD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This society of the Congregational denomination, also called the Hanover Congregational Church was organized

February 13, 1853, by twenty-five members who were dismissed from the Meriden Congregational Church by letter with that object in view. Before this, however, the church had been erected through the efforts of Walter Webb, Deacon N. C. Sanford, Ezekiel Hall, Reuben Waterman, L. Griswold and others. This church is of the typical Congregational style of architecture and comprises a wooden building of several hundred sittings. The first pastor was Rev. James A. Clark, who served from 1853-55. He was followed by Rev. Jacob Eaton, who was installed May 18, 1857 and continued until the breaking out of the Civil War, in 1861, when he left for the front as chaplain of the 7th Conn. Vols. During his pastorate an important revival was held in the church which resulted in the acquisition of thirty-two new members,. Following his pastorate for several years, and until 1870, the church had no regular pastor but in that year J. Howe Voice was installed and afterwards served as pastor until April 3, 1873. At that time the New Haven East Association supplied the pulpit with acting pastors until the regular preaching services were finally discontinued. The last three acting pastors were E. B. Crane, 1876-7, M. C. Wood, 1880, and J. G. Griswold, 1882. Elias Sanford and B. C. Eastman were the last deacons and Daniel H. Willard was the treasurer and superintendent of the last Sunday school. The church property is still kept in excellent condition, and although there is no immediate prospect of sufficiently large congregations to warrant regular services being held there, it is not at all improbable that the growth of the town may warrant such services at some time in the future, when this fine church property may again become used as intended by the God fearing people who caused its erection.

SCHOOLS

BY WILLIAM P. KELLY.

The district system of school administration was early devised in Meriden to place the responsibility and control of the schools directly in the hands of the surrounding neighborhood; but to prevent deterioration through their isolation, both town and state could legislate for the districts in some matters, and the officers of each had a deciding voice in its affairs.

The voters of each district elected each year a committee of one or more men to hire the teacher and to attend to the business matters generally; but the voters of the town at large elected a board of school visitors who approved of the qualifications of teachers and of the character of the school houses and text books.

The board of school visitors through its acting school visitor performed the duties of a superintendent, visiting the schools, making recommendations to the district committees, and passing judgment on the work of the teachers.

The recommendations of the acting school visitors often had great weight with the district committees, especially when accompanied by a threat to withhold public money. In several successive reports during the seventies they publicly rebuked the Farms district for the disreputable condition of its school house, which in the report of 1877 is characterized as "the poorest school building in the town and enough, of itself, to demoralize a school." Finally on May 24, 1879, they officially notified the district committee that "no further appropriations of school money would be made until the accommodations were made satis-



THE OLD CORNER SCHOOL.

factory." On September 15, 1879, that district had a new building ready for occupancy.

The acting school visitor received a small salary, but the others, both visitors and committees, served without pay. In most matters, as the district committee controlled the purse, the authority of the school visitor was lim-

ited to giving advice that was too often unheeded. The board of visitors met infrequently, leaving nearly everything to the acting visitor. Indeed, their power was so limited that there was little occasion to meet. The district committees had real control.

The next logical step in perfecting the administrative system was to do away with the division of authority and responsibility, and have one organization and a single governing board for the town. This change was made in Meriden at the close of the school year in 1896. Sixty-six different men held office in the districts that year, and if some men had not held more than one office the number would have been larger.

In the fall of 1896 the town assumed the property and indebtedness of the districts, and elected a town school committee of twelve men. They chose an executive officer with the title of superintendent who was entrusted with the expert supervision of the schools. Though the vote to consolidate was carried by the slender majority of five, the plan has grown in popular favor as the benefits have been more clearly seen.

There have been three superintendents: Charles M. Williams, 1896 to 1898; Albert B. Mather, 1898 to 1905; and William P. Kelly, since August 1, 1905.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLD MERIDEN INSTITUTE.

The present members of the school committee are: C. H. S. Davis, chairman; Homer A. Curtiss, secretary; Charles L. Upham, treasurer; Thomas King, John A. McHugh, James P. Platt, C. E. Stockder, Jr., Napoleon P. Forcier, Thomas A. Benham, M. B. Schenck, Cornelius J. Danaher

and George J. Stanley. Charles H. Wood is the present clerk to the committee, and Adelaide R. Pender the clerk to the superintendent.

The consolidation of the districts was agitated as early as 1863. At a special town meeting that year it was "*Voted,* That the Board of School Visitors be instructed to mature a plan for the reorganization of the public schools and school districts of the town, and print the same with their next annual report."

The board of visitors performed the duty and reported. "That they assumed this task with pleasure, fully aware that the time had come when something must be done to render the school system of the town more successful—to bring it nearer to the standard of perfection, at which we aim, and, without which, our previous action in making the schools free will be defeated. Our schools should be equal as well as free or we shall lose the benefits of experience and progress."

The recommendations of the "visitors" were rejected, but six years later the board of visitors at that time reported that, "the district system as it is applied in our town is a hindrance to the efficiency of our public schools. There is an annual suffering of educational interests because new and inexperienced district committees totally leave out of sight the policy of their experienced predecessors. There should be one system and harmony of school work throughout the town."

Again in 1875 the school visitors urged that, "the district system is prejudicial to the educational interests of our town, and that only habit re-

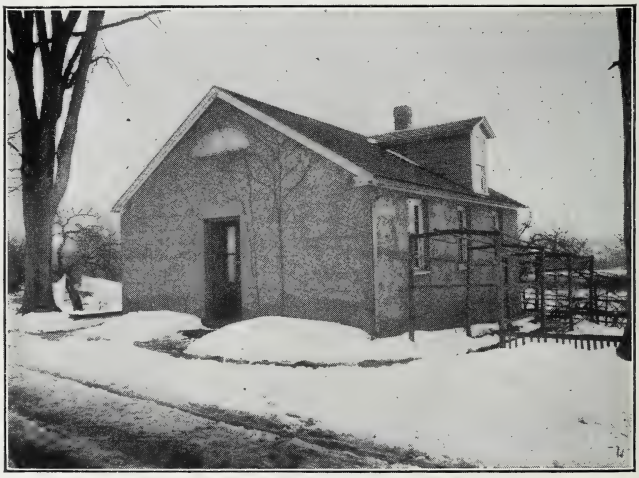


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLD WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL.

tains the former arrangement," and cites the fact that every year other towns are voluntarily abandoning it. In April, 1877, a proposition to consolidate the six central districts, which were practically within the city limits, was defeated.

In 1896, after more than thirty years of waiting, the town voted by the slender majority of five to consolidate.

The first town school committee was confident that taxpayers had given proof of their wisdom in voting for this measure, and pointed out that, notwithstanding the employment of a superintendent and drawing teacher, the expense to the town was no greater.

Mr. Mather, in referring to the value received for the money expended, said in 1902: "Over thirty years' experience in these schools gives me authority for stating that there is simply no comparison between the present system and the district system."

THE DISTRICTS.

The history of the districts is virtually the history of the Meriden public schools, and some facts concerning their beginnings may prove interesting.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLD CENTER SCHOOL.

Broad street, running north and south, and Main street, running east and west, fixed in a general way the Northeast, Southeast, Northwest and Southwest districts. The first two always retained these names, though the names Old Road and Farms were subsequently applied to the last two. By 1791, fifteen years before the town was incorporated the East, Center and West districts had been added. In

1837 the North Center, the Corner and Hanover had been added. The name North Center disappeared, however, about 1865. The Railroad district, as its name implies, followed the opening of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. about 1840, and the Prattsville district was set apart in 1849. The West district in 1850 took the name of Ives, and in 1870 the name of Northwest, no doubt to distinguish it from the new West district organized between it and the Corner.

Although no one could now accurately locate the original districts by the following description, the vote of an adjourned meeting of the society held March 7, 1791, is here reproduced because of its quaint character.

At an Adjourned Society Meeting March 7th, 1791:

VOTED to Except the Report of the Commtee Appointed to Set out the Several School Districts in sd Society which are as follows Viz.....

1. The Southeast District beginning at the Southeast corner at the old Society line Running north on the east Road half way between John Halls & Phineas Halls. Then westardly to the old Burying Yard. then South to the first line, including Asahel Yale, the Middle Road to be included to the head of Sd. Road near Lieut. Jonathan Yales.....

2 East District—beginning on the north line of the South east running West to the head of the lain near Lieut. Jonathan Yales, extending north on the East Road A quarter of A Mile north of Amasa Ives; including the Road by Daniel Halls & John Yeamons to Elnathan Ives including Sd Ives. .....



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OLD SOUTH CENTER SCHOOL.

3. North East District beginning on the north line of the East District, Running north to the north line. then westardly to the Bridge West of the w^do^ Lois Houghs, running South to the Road that goeth to Capt. Shalors on the Road to the w^do^ Louis Hough as far as the Bridge, ...

5. West District, beginning at the House where James Cobon Usd to live, including al West of the Harbor Brook to Cheshire lin .....



HIGH SCHOOL.

then A cros to the foot of the Great Hill South of John Barnses. .....

4. North west District, beginning at the north line, extending South to Benj^n^ Merriams including Sd Merriam. West to the blew Hills East

6 South west District, beginning at the old Society line bounding East on the South-east District running north to Asaph Mitchels then west by Israel Halls Jr: to the Country road, not including Sd Hall, then running north

to the Dog-way So called including all East of the Harbour Brook. .....

7 The remaining part of the Society to constetute the Center District.

Test. Nath[ll] B. Johnson, Clerk.

The first schoolhouse in the Prattsville district, built about 1849, was a plain two-story building on the corner of North Broad and Camp streets. The present building was erected to the north of the old one, in 1875, at a cost of $23,573. It contains eight school rooms and two playrooms. In 1864 this school registered fifty-two pupils, with two male teachers; in 1905, the registration was 321, with nine female teachers. In 1902 the name was changed to North Broad street school by which it has been known ever since.

The old Center school stood on what is now High street, back of the old Baptist church, at the northwest corner of the Broad street cemetery. It probably served as a schoolhouse for fifty-seven years or until the South Center was built about 1863, on Curtis street, when it was used a while for storage purposes, and then demolished. The South Center accommodated the children of the south end until the brick schoolhouse on Parker avenue was erected in 1869. The North Center, which stood on the corner of Broad and Wall streets, was used by children from the north end of the district. This building later gave way to a better one, still standing on School street. The Parker avenue schoolhouse and the Broad



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

CHURCH STREET SCHOOL.

street annex gathered in all the children and the old names of South and North Center disappeared. "The house on Parker avenue," says an old report, "is altogether too high. There are nearly 100 steps from the street in front to the principal's platform in Number 8." This building is now closed on account of its unsanitary condition. In 1864 the combined enumeration of the schools in the Center district was 176, with three teachers. In 1897 the name Center is displaced in the report by the name Parker avenue school.

South Broad street school was built as an annex to the Parker avenue school in 1884. It has always been used for the primary grades and been supervised by the principal of the Liberty street school, H. D. Beebe. There are four rooms in this schoolhouse in which the first four grades are taught. The registration for 1905 was 132, with four teachers.

The eight-room Liberty street school was built in 1894 as a primary school. When the Parker avenue school was condemned in 1904, it was made a grammar school also. The school registered 315 pupils in 1905 under a male principal and eight assistants.

The Hanover school appears on the list in 1837, but the date of the first schoolhouse cannot be accurately fixed, although it was before 1844. It stood a little east of the present building and had two rooms. When the new school was erected in 1868 the old one was removed to Cutlery avenue. The new school cost $11,000. A two-room addition was made in 1905, when there were 163 pupils under six female teachers.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

CENTRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

There seems to be no trace of the Corner district until 1830 when its first schoolhouse stood on the corner of East Main and State streets. It is spoken of as being "surrounded by a swamp," and "nestling among the willows," by elderly people who attended it. In 1836 it was removed to a two-story building on the north side of Church street, near the southeast corner of the present Church street school



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

WEST DISTRICT SCHOOL.

grounds. In 1853 this building was purchased by Noah Linsley and made into a dwelling. H. D. Smith and David N. Camp kept a high and select school from 1847 to 1853 in a building erected by the former. The Meriden Institute, as it was known, was bought by the district and enlarged and used until a brick building was put up in front of it in 1868. The "Institute" was then moved to King street, where it still stands near Orange street, and is now used as a dwelling. In 1864 the Corner District school had enrolled 275 pupils, with three teachers, and an old report has this to say of the institution: "This is the only thoroughly graded school in the town which receives children in the elements, and takes them through the successive stages of the common and higher English branches and also enables them to avail themselves of the facilities of a classical education." The registration for 1905 for this school, which since 1897 has been entered in town reports as the Church street school, was 576, under a male principal and fourteen assistant teachers.

The Willow and King street schools were built as annexes of the Corner district, the former in 1883, the latter in 1887. The Willow street school

numbers 153 and has four teachers working in the primary grades. In the King street school there are 326 pupils with eight rooms and seven grades.

Lewis avenue school, an eight-room building, was erected by the Corner district in 1893 at a cost of $10,333.44. The rooms are larger than those in the older schools, the blackboards put in are of solid slate, and the time is kept by electrical clocks. During the first year three rooms in the building were rented by the West district and one was occupied by the Corner district. In 1905 it had 284 pupils and eight teachers.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

NORTH COLONY SCHOOL.

The Old Road district took its name from the fact that the old colonial road from Hartford to New Haven lay through its land. Originally the road was nothing but a bridle path for travelers on foot or horseback. The district was first known as the Northwest, and the change to Old Road was made in honor of the historic thoroughfare which passed through it. The first schoolhouse stood on the corner of Hicks and Colony streets, where the second was built in 1843. The first schoolhouse was moved and made into a dwelling on Britannia street—it is still standing. The second is at present in use by the Firearms Co. The new schoolhouse was built a few rods east of the old location, in 1875, at a cost of $15,000. In 1864 there were sixty-five pupils enrolled, with two teachers; in 1905, there were 375, with a male principal and nine teachers. In the report of 1897 this school was first called the North Colony school.

The Railroad district was not organized until after the opening of

the Hartford and New Haven railroad, and its first schoolhouse was probably not erected until 1853. In 1868 this was enlarged and made into a two-story building. In 1875 a new building was put up on the south and this was enlarged in 1885. In Mr. Pettee's report of 1890 he says of the district: "But the school buildings of this district are badly located, and the buildings themselves are discreditable to the district. I hope that soon better buildings will be provided and a better location found for them." His suggestion was carried out in 1894, when the Franklin and Columbia street schoolhouses were erected at a cost of $19,299.81. The Columbia street school is of two stories and has a central octagonal hall extending from the first floor to the large skylight in the roof; from this hall the four schoolrooms on each floor open, giving excellent ventilation and light for the corridors. The same plan was adopted for the Liberty street school. In 1864 the Railroad school registered forty-two pupils, with two teachers. In 1905 there were 110 in the Franklin street school, with four teachers and 235 in the Columbia street school, with six teachers.

The date of the first schoolhouse in the East district is not given in old records, but it was some time previous to 1814. It stood on the north side of the Middletown road, on the corner by Almon Hall's. It is not known what became of the building. Later another schoolhouse was used until the easterly of the present East buildings was erected in 1843; this was followed by the westerly in 1846. In 1864 the number registered was



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

LIBERTY STREET SCHOOL.

seventy-four; in 1905, forty-three. The number of teachers is the same now as in 1864—two.

The Northeast district is one of the original seven that appear upon the town list of 1814. Its first schoolhouse is still standing near the original location on Bee street, one-fourth of a mile north of the present school house. It is used as a dwelling. The new house was built in 1868 at a cost of $1,500. In 1888 orders were issued to improve the house and outbuildings. This was done and the value of the property was considerably increased in consequence. It is now closed, and the pupils are conveyed to the North Broad street school. The building has been sold and is used as a dwelling.

One of the original seven districts was the West, where the first schoolhouse was built, on the north side of Johnson avenue. About 1850 this was moved to the corner of Johnson avenue and Spruce street, and in 1870 the present building was erected. The district dropped the name West and took that of Ives about 1850, and in 1870 this was changed to the Northwest. This school was discontinued in October, 1904. The building was sold and is now used as a dwelling.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

KING STREET SCHOOL.

The West Main street school was begun in 1868 as a four-room building. By 1890 it had been twice enlarged, making it the most unsightly school building in town. In 1864 there were ninety-two scholars, with two teachers. The report of that year says: "The large number of scholars made it necessary to divide the school into two departments and the plan was continued until last spring. The older

children attended in the school house and the younger at the house of Almon Andrews." In 1905 it had ten rooms under a male principal and ten assistants.

The Farms district was called the Southwest when the town was incorporated in 1806 and as late as 1837. It appears on the records just once as "Falls Plain." The first schoolhouse was built in 1800 and repaired and enlarged in 1869. In 1878 the school visitors condemned the building which was moved off and a new one built in 1879, at a cost of $1,500. This district drew about as many children from Wallingford as from Meriden. The school was closed in 1905, the building sold, and the children transported to other schools.

The oldest schoolhouse in town, without doubt, is in the Southeast district. It was built about 1800, and originally stood some twelve rods southeast of the present location, to which it was moved in 1847; it was enlarged and refurnished during the eighties. In 1864 the register recorded twenty, with two teachers; in 1905 there were twelve pupils, with one teacher.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FRANKLIN STREET SCHOOL.

FINANCES.

The first schools were inexpensive affairs, corresponding to the simplicity of the life of the times. The terms were short, the attendance was small and irregular, and the teachers made little preparation for their work and received small pay. The schools shared in the general progress and have become more elaborate and costly as the people have demanded more for their children and have had the means to pay for it.

The system of accounting is still somewhat complex. The first selectman pays all the bills from the appropriation as fast as they are approved by the school committee, but turns over the money for salaries in a lump sum each month to the clerk of the school committee, who attends to paying the employees, who are on salary.

The treasurer of the school committee receives the library grant from the state of $270 a year and a like amount of town funds from the first selectman. These are increased by a few tuition fees and other small sums. His receipts for 1904-5 were $848.58 and his expenditures for books and apparatus were $776.74.

The principal of the High school collects tuition from non-residents, and with it buys books for the High school library.

Thus, at the present time, four different persons receive, disburse, and account for the money used by the schools.

The town voted in 1863 to increase the educational tax from three-tenths to one and one-twentieth of a mill on a dollar so as to cover all the expenses of the several districts, and thus do away with rate bills and district taxes. The motion, carried in town meeting largely through the influence of Rev. John Parker, Dr. Grove H. Wilson and Welcome E. Benham, declared that "all the public schools of the town shall be free, and the expense of said schools, heretofore defrayed from the avails of rate bills, shall be paid by the town." It thus appears that before that time every parent who sent a child to school paid, or was supposed to pay,



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

WILLOW STREET SCHOOL.

tuition. "The experiment of free schools met with universal favor, the attendance increased, the finances were more simply and economically managed, and the experience of the year (1863-4) shows that this is the only just and proper method of securing to all the benefits of a good education." —Report of 1864.

The total amount of public money expended that year was $5,919.41 or about $4.11 per scholar enumerated. The basis on which this was distributed to the districts is not stated.

For years the school visitors and selectmen acted as a joint board of finance for the town, and recommended an appropriation by the town sufficient to provide each district with funds enough for the ordinary running expenses, such as teachers' and janitors' wages, fuel and minor incidentals. When buildings were to be erected, altered or repaired, the district financed the improvements alone. For this purpose they had a complete fiscal organization with collectors, treasurers and auditors. While it was simple and quite satisfactory to those concerned, the records were often kept in a fragmentary way, and only a few were turned over to the selectmen when the town consolidated.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

NORTH BROAD STREET SCHOOL.

The year 1879-'80 is typical. In that year the town distributed to the treasurers of the various districts $29,647.23. In addition thereto the districts raised by means of district taxes $11,877.17, by loans $2,053, and from other sources $414.43, or about half as much as the town appropriated.

The state has for many years annually distributed money to the towns on the basis of the number of children

enumerated. The sale of the Western Reserve lands yielded over $2,000,000. This was invested for the benefit of the schools. In 1871 it yielded $1.20 per scholar enumerated. By 1891, because of the increase in the number of children enumerated and the decline in interest rates, it yielded but seventy-five cents per scholar. The state, however, appropriated in that year from the civil list the amount of $1.50 which should be forever devoted to school purposes. The income in this town varies; in 1864 it was $230.20, in 1905 it was $179.44.

When the district system ceased, in 1896, the town school committee assumed financial control. Levi E. Coe, Benjamin Page and W. A. Miles, none of whom were on the town school committee, were appointed by the town to appraise the property of the



Photo by R. S. Godfrev.

SOUTH BROAD STREET SCHOOL.

per scholar. This sum of $2.25 per scholar is still received annually by the town.

In 1836 the finances of the United States were in such a flourishing condition that the national treasury overflowed to the amount of $28,000,000. Congress lent this to the several states. Connecticut deposited her share, $763,661, among the towns, creating in each a Town Deposit Fund, the proceeds of school districts. They reported the total value of the property to be $234,987.42 though the district committees in the same year had set it at $413,548. The town assumed the indebtedness of the districts, $61,010.45, against which were ready assets amounting to $2,488.91.

Including the income from all these sources the school committee had $115,980 to expend for the year 1905-

'06. $10,000 of this was a special appropriation to buy the town's first supply of free text books.

SCHOOLHOUSES.

The Southeast school at the corner of Miller and Paddock avenues is the oldest schoolhouse in town. It is said to have been built in 1800. It was enlarged in 1885 and is still in use.

The second type of buildings, larger and more comfortable, may still be recognized, though used now as dwellings, sometimes on their original sites, as in the case of the stone structure on Allen avenue belonging to the West district, sometimes moved to other lots. The South Center school, a roomy, frame building which stood at 12 Curtis street, was moved by its present owner to Hobart street, and converted into a tenement. The twin school houses of the East district standing side by side, and built in 1843 and in 1846, belong to this period.

In 1860 the population of Meriden was 7,426; in 1870 it was 10,571. Between these years came a great revival in schoolhouse erection, due, no doubt, to the rapid increase in population. During this period the Center and Corner districts erected four-story brick buildings of about the same type, while the West and Hanover erected two-story buildings of a type afterward followed by the Old Road district. Districts seemed to vie with each other in the improvement of their property. Parents became much more eager to keep children in school in the new buildings and school was made more inviting to the children.

The Prattsville, or North Broad

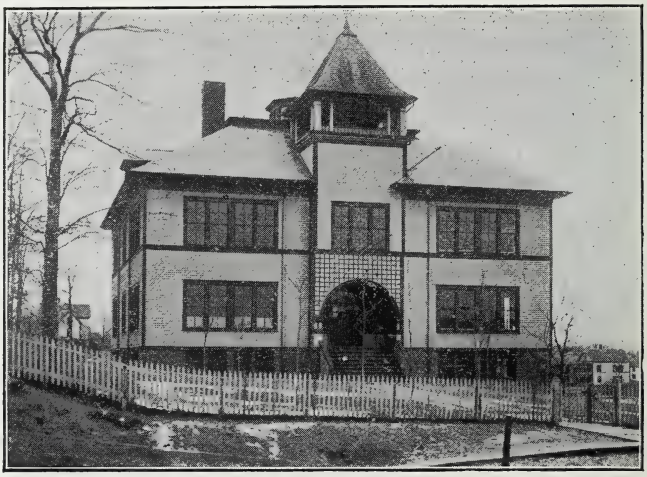


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

COLUMBIA STREET SCHOOL.

street school, was built in 1873, and was a model eight-room building which might well have been imitated.

To meet the next wave of increase in the early 80's the West district made an unsightly addition to its frame building, while the other districts began the erection of substantial brick houses, two stories high, and having two or four rooms on a floor. The Old Road and West schools originally had a pair of rooms on each floor, with a corridor and stairway space between them. They were subsequently enlarged by the addition of another pair of rooms on each floor, at right angles to the first, and making use of the same corridors and stairs. This resulted in a building in the shape of a cross.

The substantial brick buildings for the Willow street, South Broad street and King street belong to this period.

In the early 90's came another building movement. Though the Lewis avenue school followed the lines of King street, the Columbia street and Liberty street schools were of a slightly different type, introducing the central octagonal corridor and the enclosed pupils' wardrobes.

One schoolhouse was acquired by purchase. In 1903 the proprietors of the German-American school sold to the town their four-room brick building in the rear of Liberty street and the Central Grammar school was organized in it.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

LEWIS AVENUE SCHOOL.

The only schoolhouse erected under town, rather than district or private management, is the Meriden High school. Into this beautiful and imposing structure were incorporated the best ideas of beauty and utility of design, and the best materials and

workmanship. It was erected in 1885 but the interior was not entirely completed until the needs of the school required it in 1890.

The town now owns eighteen buildings, nine of which are brick. Ten have eight rooms or more; one has six rooms; there are four with four rooms, and three with only one room.

The greatest event in the history of schoolhouse building was the town vote of 1905 to issue bonds to the amount of $150,000 for the purpose of erecting modern buildings to meet the present pressing needs. The contract is already let for a twelve-room grammar school on West Main street near Windsor avenue, and a lot facing City Park has been bought for a similar purpose in the northern part of the city. The year 1905 marked the beginning of a movement to improve the sanitary condition of all the present houses.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

EAST DISTRICT SCHOOL.

LEADERS.

In comparison with the magnitude of the present day interests the schools of sixty years ago were small affairs, yet Meriden was not then, and has at no time since been lacking in men to labor for the improvement of her schools. David N. Camp, than whom no living educator in Connecticut is held in more tender esteem, conducted a high and select school here from 1847 to 1853.

The Rev. John Parker was a staunch supporter of the public schools, and led the movement which made them free to rich and poor alike in 1863. In 1871 Dr. C. H. S. Davis, then a rising young physician, came on the board of school visitors, and

served as acting school visitor for the next four years with a zeal that unfortunately proved too costly for his practice to long continue. His report of 1875 is full of information and deals with the professional side of the schools as well as the material. Not one of the important steps in the forward movements of the following thirty years did he fail to advocate. It was the decided misfortune of the town that it failed to see the value of his proposals at that time. He remained on the board of school visitors until that body was abolished in 1896, and was the only member to be elected to the new town school committee, of which he has ever since been chairman.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

HANOVER SCHOOL.

Clergymen always figured prominently in the lists of school visitors. In the year 1857 seven of the nine visitors were ministers. Two men of this calling will always be inseparably associated with the educational history of Meriden. Rev. John T. Pettee, who was acting school visitor from 1876 to 1896, with the exception of the years between 1880 and 1887, when the leadership fell to Rev. J. H. Chapin. These two men had the supervision of the schools in hand for twenty years. They were men of good judgment in practical affairs who held the confidence, not only of the teachers under them, but of the taxpayers and voters. The labors of Dr. Chapin in securing a town High school entitle him to be remembered as one of the founders.

On September 4, 1869, Albert B. Mather began his duties in the newly organized high school department of the newly built Corner school.

He was soon made the head of the school and later of the subordinate schools which grew up in that district. At the time of his elevation to the superintendency in 1898 there were 1,000 children in daily attendance to the thirty-six teachers working under him. For the next seven years he was superintendent of schools, but the twenty-nine years he spent at the Corner school enabled him as a teacher and a man to put his deepest impress on the life of the community.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT SCHOOL.

To mention all the names which deserve mention here is manifestly impossible. Many of the best professional and business men of the town have served the schools in one capacity or another, usually on the district committees. This was good for the schools because of the large number of men who thus became actively interested in their welfare. After a man has served a term in office he appreciates more the work of others. Rev. J. H. Farnsworth was an able and progressive man, giving much time and thought to the duties of his office as school visitor. Rev. Abraham Norwood was an aggressive man on the board for a short time. Dr. C. A. Graeber and Dr. N. Nickerson were active and influential members of the same board. Dr. Andrew W. Tracy served as member of both boards, school visitors and school committee, for twenty years, with insight and force.

EVENING SCHOOLS.

The evening schools have had a varied career. During the winter of

1872-1873 there were 124 registered pupils. The school was continued the next year, but in 1874 and 1875 the selectmen refused the use of the room and the project was dropped for several years. In the winters of 1882 and of 1883 Edward C. Wheatley, of the West district, conducted a school without any assistance from the town.

In 1886 the state began to aid the towns, with the result that in the winter of 1886 and 1887 the evening schools had a decided boom. 498 pupils were registered and the average attendance for fifty evenings was 249. This was more than double that in Hartford, one-third more than in New Haven, while other cities in the state were left far behind. The town appropriated money most liberally and even made up by overdraft. Men received $2.50 a night and women $1.50 for their services as teachers.

The next year the average attendance dropped to 102 per night, and the next year to forty-five; the following year the project was given up. In 1893 the state required the towns of more than 10,000 population to maintain evening schools and appropriated $3.00 per pupil in average membership for 100 nights. The committee went so far as to recommend the erection of a special building for the evening school, but it had no support. Under a threat of mandamus the school was opened on the 27th of December. Mrs. Adele S. Booth and her son, Paul C. Booth, with the help of scholars from her own private school, young ladies



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ST. ROSE'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.

from the High school and even boys from our Central Grammar maintained the school for thirty-seven evenings with an average attendance of ninety. Mrs. Booth conducted this school in the Town hall for two seasons, and after that at her own house, at the small expense to the town of $300.

From that time until the fall of 1905 the school was conducted at Mrs. Booth's, at the Pequod Business College, and in the basement of St. John's Lutheran church. The small appropriation and the limited quarters interfered much with the usefulness of the schools. The use of the High school building and the appointment of a strong corps of eight teachers from the day schools in 1905 and 1906 proved a popular feature, and made the season the most successful of recent years; 338 pupils were registered, representing twenty different nationalities. The average attendance for the fifty nights was ninety-five.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ST. LAURENT'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The first schools in Meriden were private schools, and until 1863 even the public schools were not entirely free. Whether because some people supposed that the public schools were inferior, or were too proud to educate their children at the public expense, the idea long prevailed that children of the better class should be taught in private schools.

In 1869 there were four such schools—Miss Landfear's, Miss Hinman's, Miss Plumb's and Mrs. Augur's. The Meriden Institute flourished from 1847 to 1853. It was located in a building erected by H.

D. Smith near the site of the present Church street school.

On Aug. 17, 1848, through the efforts of General Walter Booth, Samuel Yale and Rev. John Parker, the "Meriden Academical Association" was formed, and on the 23d the "Articles of Agreement" were deposited with the secretary of state, thus giving the organization a legal standing. Eighty shares at $25 each, taken by over fifty subscribers, provided the $2,000 necessary to buy and put in order the old Baptist church, then standing on the northeast corner of the Broad street burying ground.

The stockholders never received any cash dividends, were once assessed seventy-five cents a share, and several times took collections at the annual stockholders' meetings to make up small deficits. The rent charged the teacher varied from nothing to $25 a quarter. There was a fairly good income from rentals of the basement for business purposes, and the hall for traveling shows like "Tom Thumb" and the "Indian Exhibition" in 1849; for party caucuses, religious meetings of Millerites and Universalists, lodge meetings of the Odd Fellows, singing schools and other events. The Lyceum had free use provided it furnished the oil which was then $1.12 a gallon.

The first officers were as follows: Samuel Yale, president; D. R. Wright, secretary; Russell Coe, treasurer; General Walter Booth, Rev. Harvey Miller, Rev. A. A. Stevens, Rev. John Parker and Linus Birdsey, trustees. Most of these men served throughout the life of the Academy. Linus Birdsey was always in charge of the rentals and repairs.

The trustees engaged a man teacher each year who got what he could by charging tuition. He had little or no apparatus to work with, and only such books as he might own himself. Some of the teachers were M. B. Moore ('49), James Atkins ('53), Mr. Ross ('57, '58), Mr. Wilder ('61), Mr. Jewett ('62), Miss Landfear ('64-'69).

In 1869, after twenty-one years' existence, the building was sold, the school being no longer able to live in competition with the new Center school. It was moved to Twiss street where it is now used as a dwelling.

The school of Mrs. A. S. Booth, conducted at the lower end of Olive street, belongs to a later period. In the year 1894, 111 pupils came under her instruction. She still teaches many private pupils.

In 1879, through the efforts of prominent Germans who wished that their language might become a part of the education of their children, the German-American School Association was formed. Some of the incorporators were: August Schmelzer, August and Henry Hirschfeld, Charles Heinemann, Albert Patzer and Peter Maeurer. The school was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Roeth, and conducted by them in a substantial brick building until the school was discontinued in 1903. In that year the town purchased the building, and has since used it for the Central Grammar

school. The school was very successful and generally had from sixty to 100 pupils.

Although a few children are privately instructed at the present time, there is no private school of any considerable size.

Church schools have been a prominent feature in the educational life of Meriden from a very early date. Of the five Catholic schools St. Rose's is the oldest. It was started in 1855 in the basement of the church at the corner of Broad and Olive streets. In 1860 it was removed to the basement of the present church, and in 1872 the school occupied a wooden building, first on Liberty street, which was moved to the rear of the present building. As the parish grew a beautiful brick building was erected on the church property on Center street in 1874. The sisters came to Meriden in 1872, previous to which the teaching was conducted by lay workers.

In 1904 the growth of this denomination necessitated the building of another church, when St. Joseph's was erected and a school connected was opened in the brick building on West Main street, between Butler and South Grove, formerly used as a chapel. Instruction which covers the first six years of school life is now given in five rooms of St. Joseph's school by Sisters of Mercy from the Convent of St. Bridget, on Center street. About 260 pupils are enrolled. Many of these pursue their studies in the grammar grades at the St. Rose's school.

St. Laurent's, the French Catholic church, opened a school prior to 1893. In 1894 it had an enrollment of 300. At the present time the St. Laurent's church has a beautiful two-story brick schoolhouse. The school was originally conducted in the basement of the church, but in 1903 a handsome six-room brick school building was erected in the rear of the church. Since 1893 the teaching has been done by Sisters of the Assumption, of Nicolet, P. Q., of whom eight are now employed. The number of pupils enrolled is 309. French grammar and Christian doctrine are included in the studies taught. The principal is the pastor of the church, Rev. A. van Oppen.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in June, 1886, through the indefatigable efforts of the Rev. A. Krafft, established a regular day school. Its first teacher was A. Miller, who temporarily took charge in the fall of 1886. A year later, C. A. Burgdorf, the present principal, was engaged. From twenty-seven pupils enrolled in 1886 the attendance has steadily encreased until at the present time almost 200 scholars are registered. There are now, besides the principal, three teachers, Miss M. Nagel and Rev. S. F. Glaser, who teaches geography and religion. The school occupies the lower story of the church edifice.

St. Mary's German Catholic school was opened in September, 1894, with Professor Keller as its first teacher; he was succeeded in the following year by August Saleski. In September,

1896, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Md., took charge. The staff at present consists of four teachers.

The St. Stanislaus' Polish church school occupies two rooms in the rear portion of the church building on Jefferson street. This school was opened for the first time in 1897 with about ninety scholars, the teacher being A. Pryba. At the opening of the school year in September, 1905, owing to the crowded condition of the school, it was necessary to open two rooms instead of one. John Nowak was appointed teacher of the Polish branches, succeeding A. Pryba, and Teresa B. Havens was appointed teacher of the English branches. There are now about sixty scholars in each room.

The total registration in these six schools for the year 1904-1905 was 1,773.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

Though the need of a central High school was urged many years in vain, higher education was provided in various ways. The Meriden Institute previously referred to flourished as early as 1847. The report of 1864 mentions an academy as among the flourishing private schools, meaning the Meriden Academy on Broad street. The erection of the large brick school houses of the Corner and Central districts in 1868 and 1869 gave an impetus to the higher education, which had already been carried on to a limited extent in the smaller district schools, and virtually closed the Academy.

In 1868 and 1869 a regular high school department was organized under the direction of A. B. Mather at the Corner school, while Rev. J. T. Pettee taught the senior department of the South Center school, which was a two-room building. In Mr. Pettee's room the pupils ranged from young men and women who were instructed in Latin and Greek, down to little children in primary geography. In that year each of the four largest districts employed college graduates as principals in order to teach the High school branches.

The visitors of that year strongly urged the establishment of a central High school. It seems that years before, after furniture had been purchased to open a town High school, the vote by which it had been established was rescinded on account of the expense. The visitor in 1869 maintained that the town would save money by having a central High school with one college man at the head, instead of having four district high schools which required as many high-priced principals.

The school visitor in the report for 1880 gives a full account of the high school instruction given at the Corner and Center schools, and states that pupils flocked to these schools from other districts in order to get the higher branches. Still the number was small in comparison with the total population. The graduation exercises of the Center school must have been very good that year, for he enthusiastically remarks that the essays would

have done credit to the graduates of Vassar College.

On the 12th of April, 1881, the long and weary fight for a town High school came to an end, and the town voted $3,000 with which to start a Central school of not over two rooms The promoters probably won the day by omitting the objectionable word "High." The second floor of the new German-American school on Liberty street was leased, and under the principalship of Henry S. Pratt, the school began. A committee consisting of Dr. C. H. S. Davis, Dr. J. H. Chapin and Saxton B. Little, examined the applicants for admission at the Corner school on June 30 and July 1, 1881. Of the seventy-three applicants fifty-four passed and fifty-one entered the school in September. Thereafter the higher studies were excluded from the district schools. In the following year by vote of the joint board of selectmen and school visitors the name was changed from the New Central school to the Meriden High school, and thereafter as long as the town remained under the district system, the town annually elected a special committee of five members to take charge of this school. On the 15th of June, 1883, the first class graduated with thirteen members. A total of 609 persons have graduated from the school.

At the annual town meeting in October, 1883, it was voted to appropriate $50,000 to procure a site and erect a suitable building for the High school; the sum was later increased to $80,000. The lot, on the corner of Catlin and Liberty streets, was purchased at a cost of $19,500. Work was begun upon the building in 1884, and in December, 1885, it was formally opened. There have been three principals: Henry S. Pratt was placed in charge of the High school when it was opened in 1881. In 1888 he was succeeded by Simeon T. Frost who taught until 1900, when he resigned, and the position was given to his assistant, Willis J. Prouty, the present principal.

The dedication of the High school building was a notable event, the orator for the occasion being United States Senator O. H. Platt. The building was thronged by citizens at every public occasion. There were prize speaking contests and public exhibitions by the pupils which were the social functions of the season. Every existing report of the school visitors speaks in affectionate terms of the school, and recounts the liberal gifts of every sort from citizens who believed in its educational mission. Isaac C. Lewis founded the library with a gift of $1,000, and Walter Hubbard, a few years later, contributed another $1,000. Dr. J. H. Chapin's gifts of cabinets of minerals and other articles were probably of equal value. Horace C. Wilcox equipped the laboratory for the study of chemistry, botany and physics at an expense of over $1,000. Ratcliffe Hicks contributed $1,000 for a permanent fund for prizes and oratory. Besides these larger gifts there were smaller ones. The town

allowed the receipts for tuition to be expended for the library, which is already one of the best High school libraries in the state and has over 4,200 volumes. There are now 287 pupils, two male and eleven female teachers in the school.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

A great step was taken when, in 1863, the schools were made free. In that year but fifty-seven per cent. of the children enumerated were registered in the schools, and but sixty-six per cent. of those registered attended. In 1869 the irregularity of attendance was said to be the most prominent evil in the schools, and the apathy of the parents was especially censured. But as more money was expended upon the school buildings and good teachers, the public schools were better attended. In 1867 but sixty-five per cent. of the registration attended schools, while in 1874 the percentage rose to eighty-three and one-half. For many years the pupils in the upper grades would drop out of school as the year drew to a close. The enactment of the compulsory education law in 1877 greatly improved the conditions. An annual inspection of the factories used to be made, and from thirty to fifty children were made to attend school as a result. At first the duties of the truant officer was to bring runaways back to school. Now he enforces the law against negligent parents. Truancy has been so sharply looked after for many years that it is practically impossible for a child to grow up in ignorance at this time.

The general progress of the country has been reflected in the progress of our schools. The reports of Dr. Davis and Dr. Chapin indicate the spirit of the times. Dr. Davis was especially progressive in temperament, and had he been able to secure the adoption of his measures the name of Meriden would have been conspicuous throughout New England, at least, for her good schools. Dr. Chapin was more conservative though he was never provincial. He visited the best schools of the day and brought the comparisons home to the teachers of Meriden.

The growth from isolated schools with short terms and untrained teachers to a system of schools unified in aim and effort, and crowned by a good High school was gradual, and was accomplished with much patient effort.

CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS.

1863—Schools made free of tuition charges.

1872—Attendance for at least three months in each year made compulsory for children between 8 and 14 years by state statute.

1881—Meriden High school founded.

1883—First class graduated from the High school.

1885—Towns of over 10,000 population required by state law to maintain free evening schools.

1896—Town voted to abolish districts and consolidate all schools under town management.

1896—First superintendent appointed.

1896—Drawing introduced under a supervisor.

1898—Singing introduced under a supervisor.

1903—First kindergarten established at Franklin street school.

1905—Town voted to furnish text books free of expense to pupils.

TEACHERS OF MERIDEN, APRIL, 1906.

High school—Willis J. Prouty, A. M., principal; E. L. Montgomery, B. S., Augusta J. Boone, Caroline J. Hitchcock, Florence M. Fisherdick, A. B., Caroline L. Nagel, Emma K. Foskett, Elizabeth DeK. Pease, Ph. B., Jennie H. Gibson, Caroline Wilbur, Sara Beecher, A. B., Alice H. Breckenridge, A. B., Florence Garton, A. B.

Central Grammar school—Joseph Gerard, A. M., principal; Nellie F. Russell, Flora J. Newell, Annie M. Gaines, Anne P. Foskett.

Church street school—Joseph Gerard, A. M., principal; Anna C. Rice, Caroline A. Ryan, Louise A. Hitchcock, Edith E. Reynolds, Fannie W. Kelsey, Ethel H. Mix, Anna Norton, Grace C. Reynolds, Mattie S. Wetmore, Flora B. Ray, Rosemary Brady, Minnie G. Wiles, Emma F. Ryan, Mary A. Havens.

Willow street school—Edith L. Bevins, principal; Nellie A. Pagnam, May A. Lynch, Katherine A. McIntee.

King street school—Ella Daniels, principal; Elizabeth T. Dunne, Nellie W. Dow, A. Louise Hastings, Katherine E. Ryan, Mary O'Brien, Barbara Anderson, Agnes Falvey, Mary H. Savage (absent on leave).

West Main street school—William E. Gardner, principal; Jennie D. Wood, May H. Clark, Carrie F. Bodurtha, Hazel Harmon, Jeanette A. Falvey, Josephine F. Fitzgerald, Nellie T. O'Donnell, Ella G. Glynn, Augusta F. Riecke, Eleanor M. Hagerty.

Lewis avenue school—Cornelia A. Comstock, principal; Helen S. Mix, Anna T. L. Burk, Marion G. Hynes, Augusta A. Fischer, Edith P. Macy (absent on leave), Mary E. Lane, Hattie C. Foster, M. Mabelle Fulton, Alice A. Slater.

Liberty street school—H. D. Beebe, principal; Susan F. Newell, Fannie R. Ives, Sarah N. Benedict, Ella L. Hitchcock, Nettie L. Bowen (absent on leave), Mrs. G. F. Welch, Emma S. Pease, Theresa C. Raarup, Rhoda A. Briggs.

South Broad street school—Carrie E. Bull, principal; Anna Fitzgerald, Anna E. Wilcox, Mrs. I. O. Ives.

North Broad street school—Arline Denison, principal; Ella Hackett, Lena Rettman, Mabel G. Mossman, Henrietta L. Rahaley, Katherine E. Mahon, Laura A. Parker (absent on leave), Fannie E. Webber, Lillian J. McLoughlin, May Gilmartin.

Columbia street school—Mrs. Ida S. Roeth, principal; Edna M. Harris, Mrs. Mary (Foster) Dann, Lucy E. Birdsey, Mary M. Rahaley, Georgia Seidensticker.

Franklin street school—Blanche J. Paddock, principal; Nellie Keena,

Mrs. H. H. Barnes, kindergarten; Harriet I. Foster.

North Colony street school—S. Watson Warden, principal; Sabra K. Taylor, Lillie Eldridge, Minnie Lally, Dora E. Tracy, Margaret Landargan, Selena J. King, Helena E. Ryan, Katherine Brady, Emma M. King.

Hanover school—Nellie E. Simons, principal; M. Eudocia Bowman, Ione Benham, Florence M. Richmond, May Seidensticker, Mary J. Moriarty.

East school—Florence G. Robinson, May I. Manley.

Southeast school—Mary Gaffney.

Supervisor of music—G. Frank Goodale.

Supervisor of drawing—Ollie E. Ragon.

Janitors—High, John Kane; North Colony street, Frank Pease; North Broad street, James Griffin; Liberty street, William P. Camp; Church street, Edward A. Wuth; King street, Thomas McMahon; South Broad street, D. E. Pardee; Lewis avenue, Patrick Hehir; West Main street, James Fitzgerald; Columbia street, J. E. Taylor; Hanover, J. J. Schwink and J. W. Stetson; East, Josephine Winner; Southeast, James Kates; Central Grammar, Wilson Carpenter; Franklin street, Joseph King; Willow street, Thomas H. Daly.

WILLIAM POWERS KELLY.

William Powers Kelly, superintendent of the Meriden public schools, was born at Troy, Ohio, in 1865. After gaining his preparation for college in the public schools, graded and High school, in his native town, he entered Dartmouth college in 1882, and graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1886. Three years after the college conferred upon him the degree of A. M.

Following the example of many an impecunious collegiate he began to teach school for the sake of the quick

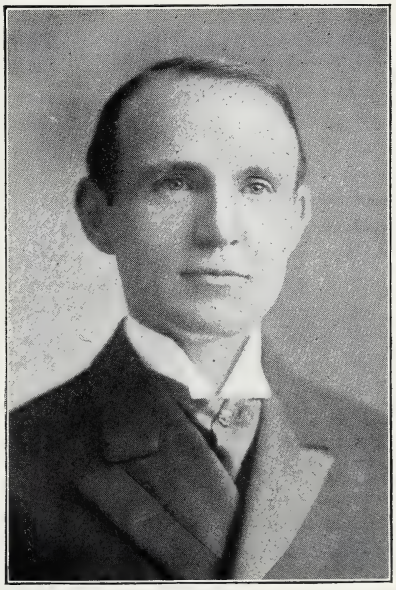


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WM. P. KELLY.

and sure income. During the year 1886 and 1887 he was principal of Coe's Northwood Academy, Northwood, New Hampshire, and for the next three years was principal of the High and graded schools of South Hadley, Mass. On leaving that position in 1890 he accepted private school work for boys, in St. Louis, Mo. Be-

ing somewhat dissatisfied in this school he engaged in business in that city until the fall of 1891 when he was called to Worcester Academy, Worcester, Mass., a flourishing college preparatory school for boys. Here he remained until he was called to the principalship of the union schools of St. Johnsbury, Vt., in 1894. Within a few months from the beginning of this work he was made superintendent of all the schools in the town, and during his three years there he gave the schools their present organization, and instituted the series of summer schools for the teachers of the county.

In 1897 he accepted the superintendency of the schools in Hudson, Mass., and two years later the same office in the town of Attleboro, Mass. After a work of six years in these schools during which the school system was greatly developed he was elected superintendent of the schools in Meriden, and began his duties on the first of August, 1905.

Mr. Kelly was married in 1896 to Miss Lillian M. Lee, of Newport, R. I., and has two sons, David, born in 1899, and William P., Jr., in 1901. He attends the Center Congregational church and is a member of the Colonial Club.

WILLIS J. PROUTY.

Prof. Willis J. Prouty, principal of the Meriden High school, who has taken a prominent part as a public educator, was born in Spencer, Mass., May 22, 1865. He is the son of Henry J. and Parmelia (Roberts) Prouty, and his family is one of the oldest of the Bay State. He is a descendant of Richard Prouty, who settled in Scituate, Mass., in 1667, and whose great-great-grandson, David, was a soldier in the French and Indian war, also serving as a captain during the Revolution, and later a major of the militia. Adam, son of Isaac Prouty,



Photo by H. T. Shaw.
WILLIS J. PROUTY.

born in Scituate in 1721, removed to Spencer previous to 1750, where the family name has since been a prominent one.

Willis James Prouty was given an excellent education by his parents. He graduated from the Spencer High school in 1883, after-

wards entering Tufts College, taking the academic course, and graduating therefrom with high honors, with the class of 1887. In 1896 he was conferred the degree of A. M. by his Alma Mater. He began his successful career as an educator by accepting a position as instructor in mathematics and bookkeeping at the Meriden High school soon after leaving college. Two years later he was made assistant principal, and in 1899 succeeded Prof. S. T. Frost as master of the school, which position he has since filled. Prof. Prouty's record as an educator of the youth has reflected much credit upon Meriden, and has proven that as a school manager he has few superiors. He has ever held not only the regard of the school board but of the pupils with whom he has entered into direct fellowship both in and out of the school room. In addition to his duties at the High school, Prof. Prouty has for two terms had charge of the evening schools of the town, namely 1887-8.

He is a prominent figure socially, being a member of the Zeta Psi of Tufts College, treasurer of the Home Club of Meriden, a member and for one year secretary of the Colonial Club, a member of the Meriden Golf Club and its executive committee, a past regent and collector of Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum; a past councillor and collector of Invincible Council Loyal Association, librarian of the Meriden Scientific Association, member of the executive committee of the Meriden Guild of the Religious Educational Association, and member of the Committee on Historic Addresses, Events and Relics of the Meriden Centennial.

He was married in 1890 to Jennie W., daughter of Henry G. Smith, of Meriden, to whom one daughter, Marilla, has been born.

JOSEPH GERARD.

Joseph Gerard, A. M., principal of the Church street and also the Central Grammar school, was born at Mount Bethel, N. J. He is the son of William and Susan (Anthony) Gerard, also natives of New Jersey. His ancestors on the paternal side came from the Channel Islands and settled near Philadelphia. His great-grandfather shod Gen. Washington's famous white horse during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Gerard prepared for college at Centenary Collegiate Institute, Hackettstown, New Jersey, later entered Wesleyan University Middletown, and after taking the regular college course, was graduated in 1882 with the degree of A. B. This university afterward conferred upon him the degree of A. M.

Adopting teaching as his profession, he began his first year as a pedagogue at East Hartford and continued his work as an educator at the public schools in Southington, but in 1884 he was secured by the school committee of Meriden as

principal of the Old Road school. After fulfilling the duties of master of that school for five years, he resigned and accepted an office in the United States custom house in New York City, after having qualified for the same by passing the required civil service examinations. At the end of two years, however, his love for teaching prompted him to relinquish his position in the custom house and again enter the educational field. Soon after he was installed in his old position as principal of the Old Road school, where he remained until appointed the successor of C. M. Williams at the West Main street school. Two years later when A. B. Mather was appointed as superintendent of schools, Mr. Gerard succeeded him as principal of the Church street school, familiarly known as the Corner school. This, the largest grammar school in the city, has accommodations for 600 scholars, and contains fourteen rooms all of which are taxed to their utmost and where he is assisted by fourteen teachers.



JOSEPH GERARD.

At the Central Grammar school the higher branches of the grammar grades are taught, and this school has been under his guidance since it was acquired by the city

Mr. Gerard stands high in his profession and is a member of the State Teachers' Association, the Schoolmasters' Club, and is a trustee of the State Teachers' Guild.

He has also taken two courses at Yale University, one in psychology and pedagogy and the other, school organization and supervision.

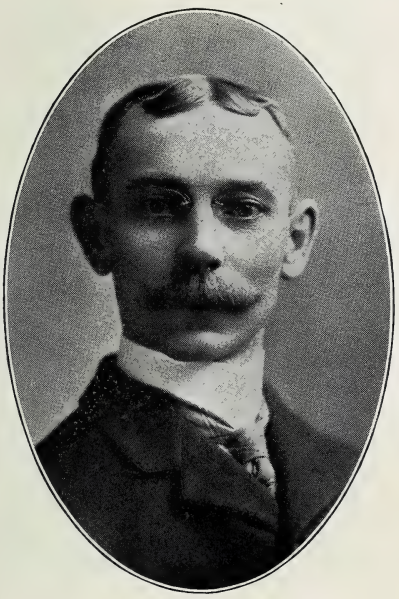
He was married in Middletown to Martha J. Chapman, daughter of Owen Chapman, and to this union have been born two children, Ruth Wilhelmina, not now living, and Owen Stephen Gerard, who graduated at Meriden High School and from there entered Wesleyan University.

Mr. Gerard is a member of the Home Club, the Colonial Club and Business Men's Association. In fraternal life he is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the B. P. O. E., No. 35.

In church affairs he and his family belong to the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

WILLIAM E. GARDNER.

William Elliott Gardner, principal of the West District School of Meriden, was born at Lodi, Seneca County, N. Y., January 14, 1861. His father was Edwin Forest Gardner, a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., who in his young manhood bought land and engaged in agriculture in Lodi where



WILLIAM E. GARDNER.

he married, Jane, daughter of Cornelius Compton. Mr. Gardner is also descended from the Catlin family of Connecticut and his grandmother, Mary Catlin, lived in Litchfield.

After spending his early life on his father's farm and attending the common schools of the town he graduated at the High School at Trumansburg, N. Y. He fitted for the work of an educator first at the Albany State Normal School, afterwards taking the teachers' course at the University of the City of New York, where he achieved high honors in scholarship and took prominent part in literary and debating societies of the college, and later post graduate pedagogical courses at Yale College and the summer school at Martha's Vineyard. While fitting for his profession he taught several terms at country schools in New York State, but after his graduation from the Normal School at Albany, he was appointed principal of the Greenfield Hill School, Greenfield Hill, Conn. His next school was at New Canaan, Conn., of which he was the principal for a period of six years. During the latter part of his stay in that town he also served as superintendent of schools.

In September, 1895, he was secured as principal of the Prattsville School in this town, where he remained for three years and until transferred to the West Main Street School in 1898 and where he now has ten assistants. Owing to the overcrowded condition of this school, which, at this writing, has an average attendance of 400, a new building now in process of construction has become an absolute necessity. Mr. Gardner is a most successful educator of the young, is a deep student of his profession, and enjoys the respect of his pupils and assistant teachers and the full con-

fidence of the community. At his home he possesses a valuable library included in which are many books treating on educational subjects. Mr. Gardner is a member of the Colonial Club, the Meriden Grange and the First Congregational Church.

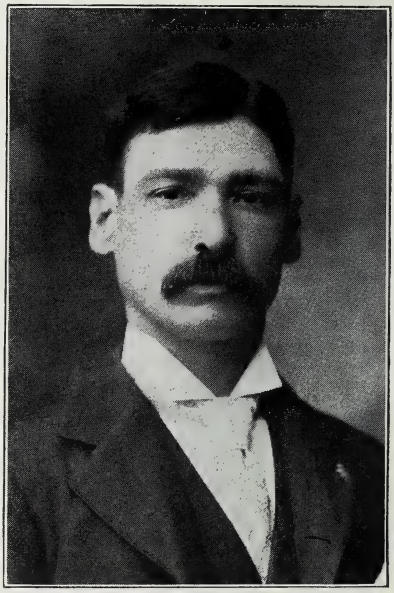
He has been twice married: first to Etta Perry of Greenfield Hill, Conn., who died in 1890. To that marriage two children were born. Elliott and Esther. Mr. Gardner was married, second, to Emily Hogarth Covert of Interlaken, Seneca County, N. Y., and to that union two children, Pauline and Alan, have been born. Mr. Gardner resides with his family on Linsley avenue.

S. WATSON WARDEN.

S. Watson Warden, principal of the North Colony School is a native of Virginia. He was born September 7, 1860, near Charleston, West Virginia, which, at the time of his birth, had not been set apart from its mother state.

He is a son of a Methodist clergyman, and in his boyhood lived in different parts of that commonwealth. He, therefore, gained an extensive acquaintance in his native state which he values highly. He was brought up to fully value education, and after obtaining a common and normal school training began his college life in the Ohio Wesleyan University, but afterwards entered the University of West Virginia from which he graduated in 1886. He was enabled to receive his full college course by teaching school at intervals, thereby paying his own way.

After the graduation from the University of West Virginia, he was well qualified both by experience and knowledge to become master of a school. Mr. Warden came to



S. WATSON WARDEN.

Meriden in 1888 after having been at the head of a select private school at Goodground, L. I., and when selected by the district committee as master of the Hanover School, he made a valuable acquisition to the teaching staff of the Meriden public schools. After remaining in this school for a period of eight years,

he succeeded Joseph Gerard, in 1896, as principal of the Old Road School, which after the consolidation of the districts was given the name of the North Colony School, where he has since ably presided over the destinies of the pupils.

The increase in attendance, at this school, especially within the past year has been somewhat remarkable and has resulted in more than taxing the building of eight rooms to its fullest capacity.

The recent growth in attendance is caused by the acquisition of new manufacturing industries in that section of the town, resulting in the arrival in Meriden of a large number of new families, whose children are sent to that school. At the present writing Principal Warden has nine assistants, and from the present attendance at the school, 390, which bids fair to prove larger rather than decrease, additional school room seems an absolute necessity. At this school all the grammar grades but the ninth are taught.

Mr. Warden, in addition to his duties at the Colony School, during last season was master of the Meriden Evening School, which this year had the largest attendance in the history of the evening schools of the town, or an average of ninety-five for the fifty nights comprising the term.

Mr. Warden is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having filled all the chairs at Hancock Lodge in South Meriden, and being twice sent as delegate to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. In his religious sympathies he is a Methodist and, with his family, attends the first Church of that denomination.

He was married to Henrietta M., daughter of Alvin Sweet of South Meriden, and to that marriage two girls and two boys have been born: Edna, Raymond, Mildred and Watson.

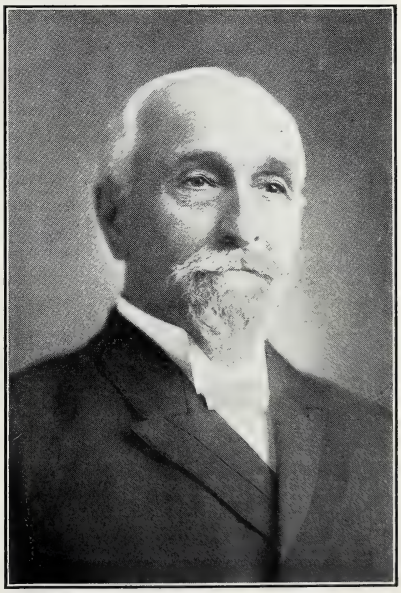


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

H. DWIGHT BEEBE.

BIOGRAPHIES

JERE DEWEY EGGLESTON.

Among her physicians Meriden possesses none more esteemed by his patients and friends than Jere Dewey Eggleston, M. D.

He was born in Longmeadow, Mass., October 28, 1853, his parents being Jere D. and Louisa (Carew) Eggleston and he is descended of a long line of New England ancestry, and in the seventh generation from Bigat Eggleston who was born in 1590 and came from Exeter, England to Dorchester, Mass., in 1630. He was a freeman in 1631, was an original member of Mr. Warham's church and with it moved to Windsor, Conn., in 1635, becoming one of the first citizens of that historic place. He died in September, 1674, and his wife, Mary, preceded him December 8, 1657. From his first American ancestor, Dr. Eggleston's lineage is as follows: James, Nathaniel, Eben, Eli, and Jere D. Eggleston.

Dr. Eggleston is essentially a self-made man in the very best interpretation of that term. His father's death, while he was yet an infant, followed not many years afterwards by that of his mother, threw the boy upon his own resources and developed in him those qualities which have united to make his career eminently successful.

He began to be self-supporting at the age of thirteen, and, first by working on a farm and afterwards by teaching school, he prepared the way for the education which he had early determined should be his. He graduated from Williams College, and later from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City.

He began the practice of his profession in Windsor Locks, Conn., and in about 1880 he removed to Meriden which has been his home ever since. It was not long after his coming to Meriden that he began to be known as one of the leading young physicians of the city. He threw himself heart and soul into the practice of his chosen profession, and his marked abilities, united with a pleasing address and genial personality, soon won for him a firm place in the opinion of all. He has kept abreast of the times in all his works, and his opinions on all subjects connected with his profession are eagerly sought, not only by his patients, but by his fellow practitioners as well.

Dr. Eggleston's many professional calls have not kept him from other calls and pleasures, political and social. His home is often thrown open for enjoyable events in the social life



L. D. Eggleston

of the city and no one excels him as a host. In politics he is a Republican and, although always a busy man, took the time to serve his city as alderman for several years. He is prominent in both Free Masonry and Odd Fellowship and is a member of local orders. He is also a prominent



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

RESIDENCE OF DR. J. D. EGGLESTON.

member of the Meriden Medical society and the city hospital staff.

May 18, 1881, Dr. Eggleston was married to Elizabeth C. Duncan, of Poquonnock, Windsor, Conn., a native of Poquonnock and the daughter of one of its former prominent citizens and manufacturers, Thomas Duncan, who was a native of Scotland, where he came from distinguished Scotch ancestry. The following children have been born to them: Robert D., born March 7, 1882; Ralph B., born November, 1884, and died March 19, 1886; Jeannette L., born April 18, 1887; Arthur J., born November 19, 1890, and Jere Dudley, born May 29, 1894.

The Eggleston home is a delightful one as many who have enjoyed its hospitality can testify, and an illustration of which is here shown.

E. T. BRADSTREET.

Edward Thomas Bradstreet, M. D., was born at Thomaston, Conn., Feb. 15, 1852. He is the son of Thomas J. and Amanda (Thomas) Bradstreet, and a descendant of the early colonial governors, Simon Bradstreet and Thomas Dudley, Governor Bradstreet having married Anne, daughter of

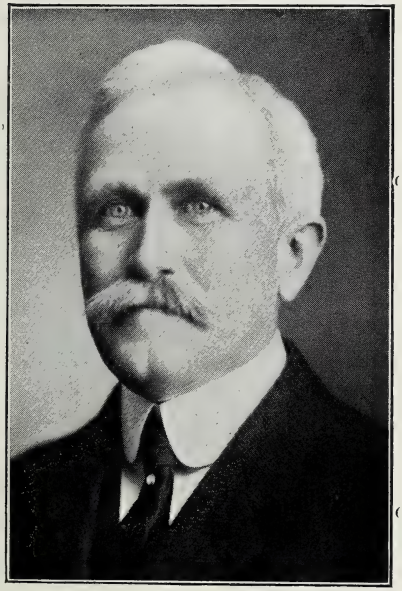


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
DR. E. T. BRADSTREET.

Dudley, before leaving England. His maternal grandfather was Seth Thomas, for whom Thomaston was named. The father of Dr. Bradstreet graduated from Yale College in 1834, and soon after completing the course at the Andover Theological Seminary, was engaged to preach for six months at the Center Congregational church at Meriden. Poor health affecting his voice soon after taking a church at Thomaston, he left the ministry. After filling various positions with his father-in-law, Seth Thomas, in his clock factory, cotton mill and brass mill, including that of traveling salesman, being probably the pioneer drummer of the brass trade, he adopted the more healthful occupation of improving land and doing light farming. He died at the age of ninety years.

Dr. Bradstreet was educated at the Thomaston Academy, afterwards taking the academic course at Yale College, and graduated in 1874 with the degree of A. B. He studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, from which he was graduated in 1877, and after a brief period, in which he was engaged in further study, he came to Meriden in the same year, and began the practice which he has ever since continued.

Since its organization Dr. Bradstreet has been a member of the staff of the Meriden City Hospital, where he is now president of the medical board; and his services have always been highly valued.

He stands high in his chosen profession. He is a member of the American Medical Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, New Haven County Medical Society, President of the Meriden Medical Society, one of the directors of the Gaylord Farm Sanatorium, examiner for fourteen of the leading life insurance companies; president of the Meriden Yale Alumni

Association; since 1901 has served as medical examiner of the town of Meriden, and from 1882-1893 was a member of the New Haven Board of Examiners for Pensions. He is a member of the First Congregational church, the Home Club, president of the Meriden Golf Club since its organization, member Gov. Thomas Dudley Family Association and of the Sons of the Revolution. He is also one of the General Committee arranging for the Centennial Celebration of the town.

He was married in 1875 to Alice E., daughter of Hiram and Sarah (Beers) Pierce, of Thomaston, Conn., to whom have been born Edward Dudley Bradstreet, a graduate of Yale College in 1901, who has adopted painting as a profession; Mary Thomas Bradstreet, and Alice Pierce Bradstreet, who died at the age of six years.

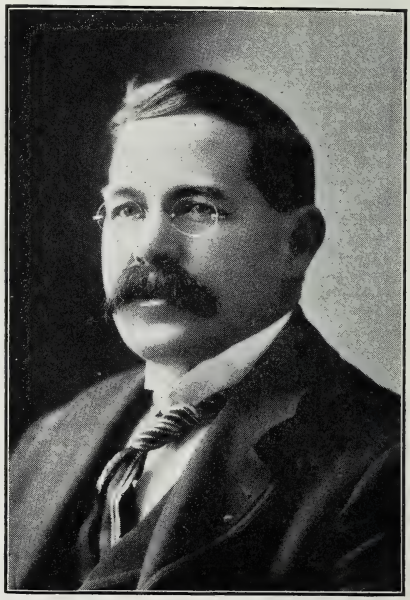
E. W. SMITH.

Edward Wier Smith, M. D., a representative physician and surgeon of note, and valued member of the city hospital staff, was born here October 17, 1854, and has for more than five decades been identified with Meriden's educational, social and medical interests. His parents were David and Fidelia (Parker) Smith, and his ancestors won considerable distinction in the battles of the American Revolution.

Dr. Smith acquired his early education in the schools of Meriden. This was followed by a course in the Hopkin's grammar school, New Haven, and Yale college, from which institution he graduated in 1878.

During his college life Dr. Smith took considerable interest in athletics. He played on the Yale University baseball team and participated in contests with Harvard, Princeton and other educational institutions.

His predilection for a medical career took definite form when he entered the medical department at Yale, but like the great majority of professional men in former years, his collegiate course was interrupted in his case, and at the end of a year, he turned his attention to teaching as a temporary makeshift. He did not lose sight of his goal, however, for in 1880 he returned to college to pursue



DR. E. W. SMITH.

the course upon which his hopes were centered, at McGill Medical school, in Montreal, Canada, by which institution he was granted his diploma and degree of M. D. in 1882. He lost no time looking about for a suitable opening, but returned at once to Meriden and established his office in a desirable location that same year.

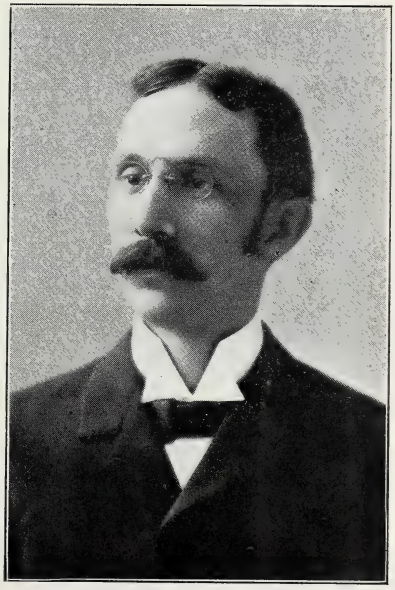
Dr. Smith's ambition to keep abreast of the times in his profession was further manifested when he pursued a post graduate course, in the medical college, New York City, in 1892. Dr. Smith has allied himself with various medical associations, including the Conn. Medical Society, American Medical Association; American Academy of Medicine and the Meriden Medical Society. He has ever kept in touch with the great strides that have been made in the medical and surgical fields and his success in the latter has won for him the admiration of his brother practitioners.

He was married October 14, 1885, to Helen B. Rice, daughter of Oliver and Abbie C. Rice, of Meriden, and their two children are Marion R. and David Parker Smith.

Dr. Smith is a member of the First Congregational church and is also a member of the Meriden Golf club and the Home club of Meriden, in all of which he takes a deep interest.

E. W. PIERCE.

Elbridge Worthington Pierce, M. D., was born in Northford, Conn., June 18, 1862. He is a son of the late Rev. A. C. Pierce, a Congregational clergyman, who removed to Brookfield Center, Conn., in 1870, and there was a pastor until his death in 1888. Dr. Pierce obtained his preliminary education in a private school in Brookfield, the Newtown (Conn.) Academy, and the Sheffield Scientific School, of Yale; his professional education in the medical department of the University of New York, the New York Postgraduate School and Hospital, New York Policlinic, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and the outpatient department of Bellevue hospital.



DR. E. W. PIERCE.

He came to Meriden in September, 1885, and engaged in general practice in partnership with Dr. E. W.

Smith but after seven years this partnership was dissolved; and since then he has limited his practice to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Pierce became a member of the medical staff of the Meriden Hospital when it was first organized and was elected secretary of the Medical Board, which position he has held to the present time.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, Connecticut Medical Society, New Haven County Medical Society and the Meriden Medical Association. He is a member of the Home Club and Meriden Golf Club.

He was married to Bessie Hubbard November 12, 1895, and to that union one son has been born.

E. A. WILSON.

Edgar Adams Wilson, M. D., oculist and aurist, and since its organization, a member of the hospital staff, is the only son of the late Dr. Grove H. Wilson, a former mayor of Meriden and for many years a leading practitioner of the medical profession. He was born at Conway, Mass., December 4, 1853. When he was four years old his parents removed to Meriden; and he obtained his early education first at private school and later at the Corner school. He fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H., and was later graduated from the academic department of Yale College with the class of 1877. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania where he took the medical course and received his diploma in March, 1881, and from the New York Homeopathic College in 1882.

He began his professional career by conducting a general practice at Rockville, Conn., where he remained from 1883 to 1888, afterwards engaging in general practice with his father until 1893; when he became the clinical assistant surgeon at the Manhat-

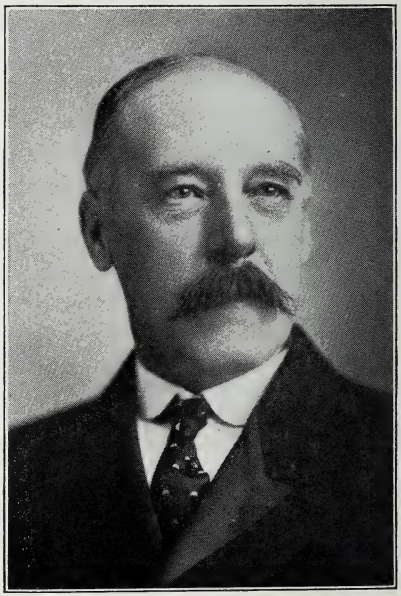


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
DR. E. A. WILSON.

tan Eye and Ear Hospital. There he became intensely interested in that special branch of his profession, and since 1897 he has confined himself to the treatment of those diseases and continued practice in the office made vacant by the death of his father.

He was for five years city health officer, and since 1893 has been health

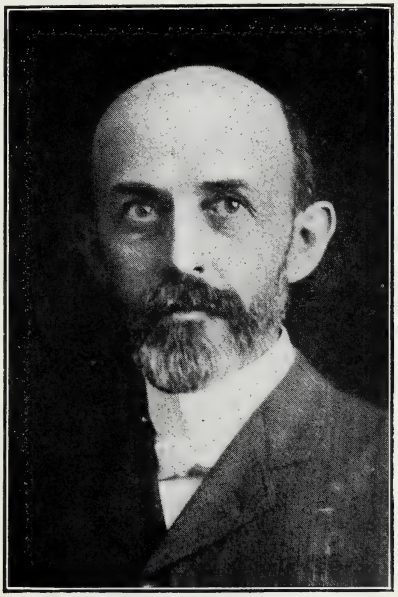
officer of the Town of Meriden and since its formation, in December, 1890, he has been secretary of the New Haven County Public Health Association. Dr. Wilson is a member of the various medical societies, also of the Alumni of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, the New England Association of Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania. As well as being a member of the city hospital staff, he fulfills similar professional duties at the Connecticut Masonic home at Wallingford. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Alfred Hall Council, Royal Arcanum; and also of the Home Club of Meriden.

He married in 1883 Ida M., daughter of George and Lydia (Redfield) Beach, and they have one son, Leslie Adams Wilson, born in 1886, and a graduate in 1906 of Williston Academy, Easthampton.

F. P. GRISWOLD.

Frederick Pratt Griswold, M. D., a leading physician and member of the city hospital staff of Meriden, was born in Essex, Conn., March 3, 1850. He comes of early colonial ancestry and is the son of Samuel and Susan (Pratt) Griswold. One of his forefathers, Edward Doty, the fortieth signer of the Mayflower Compact, served under Myles Standish in the First Military company and took part in the first encounter, December 8, 1620.

Dr. Griswold received his education in the common schools of his native town, later studying at the Suffield Institute and afterwards taking up medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City, from which he graduated and received his degree of M. D. in 1876. After spending a year and a half in Bellevue Hospital, he began the practice of



DR. F. P. GRISWOLD.

medicine in Guilford, remaining there for six years. He afterwards spent six months at the Polyclinic in New York City and came to Meriden in the fall of 1884.

Since that time he has been a valued resident of the town and has continued practice without interruption to the present writing. Dr. Griswold

has always stood high in his profession and has built up a large practice, his office and residence being situated on Broad street opposite the Center Congregational church. He has been a member of the hospital staff since the excellent institution was first founded in Meriden. He is a member of the American Medical Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, the New Haven County Medical Society and the Meriden City Medical Society, in all of which he enjoys the fellowship and esteem of the members of the profession in the highest degree. He is examiner for the Massachusetts Mutual and the National Life Insurance companies.

He was married October 30, 1878, to Caroline P., daughter of Wm. Seward and Caroline Parmelee Hull, of Madison, Conn., to whom have been born two boys: Frederick Prescott, born April 16, 1880, and Harold Hull, born November 12, 1886. Both Dr. and Mrs. Griswold are active members of the Center Congregational church.

H. A. MEEKS.

Harold Albert Meeks, M. D., a well known physician of Meriden, who has been a member of the city hospital staff since its organization, was born at the summer home of his parents, Preakness, Wayne Township, N. J., July 27, 1868. He comes from an old Knickerbocker family and his descendants figured prominently in the affairs of Manhattan Island long before the Revolution. His father was of English and Spanish descent. Dr. Meeks has also Holland-Dutch and French blood in his veins.

He is descended from Abra Clark, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and also from Captain Francis Van Dyke, of the Continental artillery whose prominence and valor at the Battle of Monmouth are



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

DR. H. A. MEEKS.

matters of history, and who was also instrumental in the capture of Major Andre. His wife, a daughter of a French Huguenot minister, entertained Lafayette and acted as interpreter in his first conference with Washington. The father of Dr. Meeks was captain of the Eighth Company of the Anderson Zouaves which served under

Generals McClellan and Keyes and throughout the Civil war.

Dr. Meeks attended school in New York City, afterwards entered and graduated at Phillips Exeter Academy where he prepared for Columbia College. He studied medicine at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, from which he graduated and was conferred the degree of M. D., in 1890. He began practice immediately at the St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City; and after his service there continued, a few months, with a private office at the metropolis. He came to Meriden in 1891 to continue the practice of his profession which he has since conducted here.

Dr. Meeks was three years town physician of Meriden and has been city health officer since 1901. In addition to being a valued member of the city hospital staff, upon which he has served ever since the hospital was founded, Dr. Meeks has for eleven years been the physician and surgeon for the State School for Boys. He stands high in his profession; is a member of the Meriden City Medical Society, New Haven County Medical Society, Connecticut State Medical Society, New Haven County Health Officers Association, and is also a member of the Home Club of Meriden.

He was married in 1892 to Florence Austin, of Meriden, and has two sons.

JOSEPH A. COOKE.

Meriden is peculiarly fortunate in the possession of skillful practitioners of the medical profession, one of the ablest of which is Dr. Joseph A. Cooke. He was born at New Haven, February 11, 1866, and was graduated from the medical department of Yale University in 1897. After practicing for a time in New Haven, and getting further valuable experience at St. Francis' hospital, New York City, he came to Meriden in



DR. J. A. COOKE.

1899. A warm letter of introduction from the celebrated Dr. Francis Bacon, of New Haven, assured him a cordial reception from the other members of the medical profession in Meriden by whom he has ever since been extended every courtesy and consideration. Dr. Cooke has, therefore, been in continuously active and suc-

cessful practice in Meriden for six years.

He was appointed a member of the hospital staff in 1901 and has proven himself one of the most enthusiastic workers in the cause of science and humanity at that excellent institution. Like many other physicians and surgeons of the town, he is possessed of admirable judgment, a quality which must be inborn and his capacity for work is somewhat remarkable. He has a particularly large office practice and usually several hospital cases. He is a general favorite in the community. He is a member of several fraternal organizations, including the Eagles, Foresters, Elks and Turners, and is also a member of Division 2, Ancient Order of Hibernians. Dr. Cooke is local medical examiner for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. and is a member of the city, state, county and American medical societies.

Dr. Cooke married Susan Josephine Stanford, of New Haven, Conn., August 6, 1903.

GEORGE ROCKWELL.

George Rockwell, secretary of the International Silver Co., now of Waterbury, but for many years a resident of Meriden, was born at Ridgefield, Conn., and is one of the three sons of Francis A. and Mary (Lee) Rockwell, who have figured prominently in the manufacturing and financial life of Meriden.

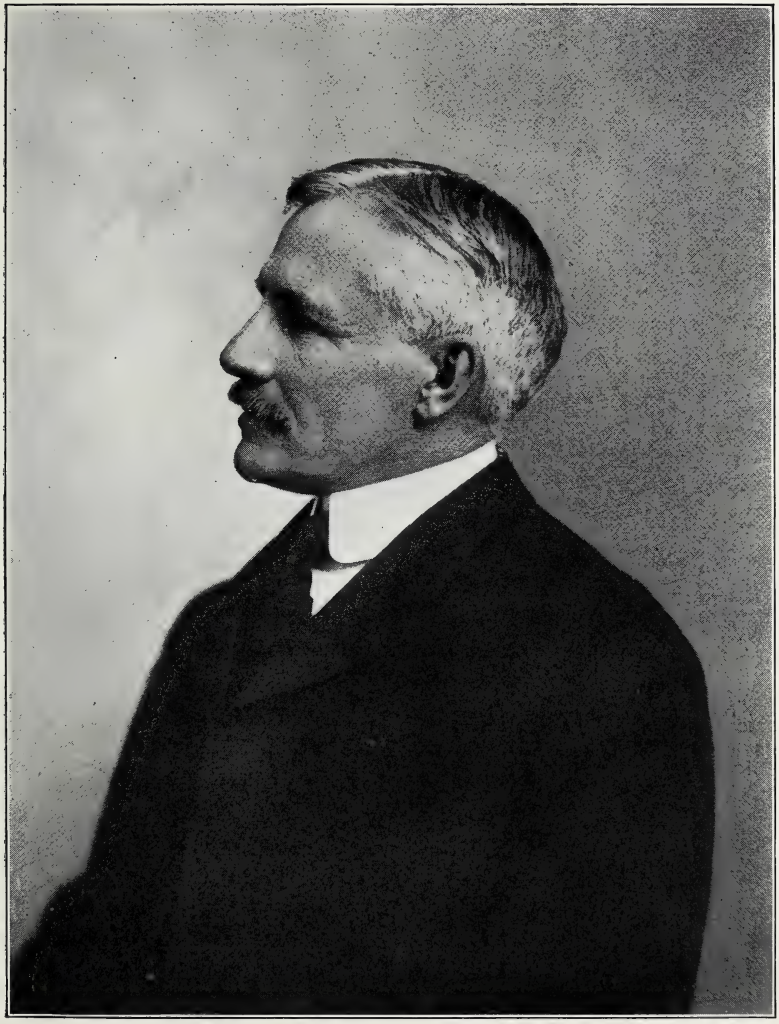
He was educated in the schools of his native town and concluded his studies at the academy at Fort Edward, New York. He began his successful business career as a clerk in the First National Bank, of Norwalk, Conn., where he became schooled in banking methods. At the end of two years he accepted a position with a firm of wholesale grocers in New York City, with whom he remained for a period of nine years, and during that time became the head of the accounting department.

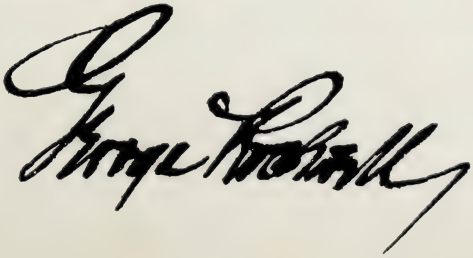
In 1879 he was elected auditor of the Meriden Britannia company and later became a director and secretary of that company. He held that office until the organization of the International Silver Company, when he was elected secretary of that corporation and holds the office at the present time.

His general business ability and great energy have brought him many other positions of honor and responsibility. He was treasurer of the Rogers & Brother corporation, of Waterbury, and the Meriden, Waterbury & Connecticut River Railroad Co. while those two corporations were carried on under those titles and since its organization has been one of the directors of the International Silver Company.

He is also one of the directors of Manning, Bowman & Co. and the Miller Bros. Cutlery Co., of Meriden.

Mr. Rockwell took up his residence at Waterbury in 1890 to become manager of the Rogers & Bro. corpora-





tion, one of the companies forming the International Silver Company, and holds that office at the present time. He is a man with an almost unlimited capacity for work, and never shirks a duty he is called upon to assume either in business or social life. His success in business life may be largely attributed to the fact that he has found pleasure in the faithful performance of every duty.

Mr. Rockwell is a member of the board of managers of the Waterbury Club and is a member of the house committee of the Manufacturers' Club of Waterbury.

He was married in 1881 to Minnie F. Battles, of Lowell, Mass., and that union has been blessed with two children, George Rockwell, Jr., and Sherburne B. Rockwell.

E. LYMAN MARVIN.

E. Lyman Marvin, for more than twenty years a valued resident and leading merchant of Meriden, was born in Greene, Shenango county, N. Y., July 15, 1839, and died in Meriden, May 1, 1899. His early life was spent upon his father's farm. He afterwards for a time taught a village school winters. He learned the drug business, which he made his life's calling, at Binghamton, N. Y., where he also enlisted in the Civil War in the Eighth N. Y. Cavalry, serving as hospital steward until the close of the war. He then returned to Binghamton, where he assumed his former position as drug clerk, and in 1867 was married to Mrs. Susan B. Barber, mother of Willis N. Barber, now a well known druggist of Meriden. Mr. Marvin, with his wife and stepson, came to Meriden in 1868, and on Broad street, in the building now the residence of Silas B. Hall, started the third drug store in Meriden, his quarters comprising one-half of



E. LYMAN MARVIN.

the ground floor, and the other half being used as a shoe store. Owing to the scarcity of rents Mr. Marvin secured accommodations with board in the old Central hotel, afterwards removing his family to a small house on East Main street, but in 1883 built a comfortable residence at 530 East Main street, where he

lived with his family until he passed out of this life.

His strict integrity and reliability as a merchant soon won the confidence of the buying public at the center, and his enterprise in putting in one of the first soda fountains in Meriden made him somewhat celebrated. His progressiveness as a merchant was also demonstrated in various ways. In February, 1870, having bought out the drug store of Davis & Greenfield, he removed to the present location, where he continued in business as long as he lived, and which store, now owned by his stepson, Willis N. Barber, has been gradually enlarged from time to time until it comprises one of the largest and best ordered drug stores in the city. Athletic goods, school books and periodicals formerly comprised a large portion of the stock, and during the youth of Willis N. Barber, who grew up with the store, a job printing business was conducted, but as the population at the center increased, the store became more confined to the goods usually found in a drug store, but a large stock of stationery, blank books and periodicals is still carried.

Mr. Marvin was affiliated with several organizations and was especially active in the Odd Fellows, being a member of Meriden Center Lodge, 68, I. O. O. F., in which lodge he passed through all the chairs. He was also a member of the building committee and one of the trustees of the Odd Fellows' building on Broad street. He was a member of Oasis Encampment, and of the uniform rank of that order. He was a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M., and Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M., and was highly esteemed in Masonic circles. He was also a member of Merriam Post, 8, G. A. R., and also of the Meriden Druggists' Association and the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association. In politics he was a consistent Republican, and although he served two years from the Fifth ward in the common council, he declined further to hold public office. With his wife he was a devout member of the First Baptist church.

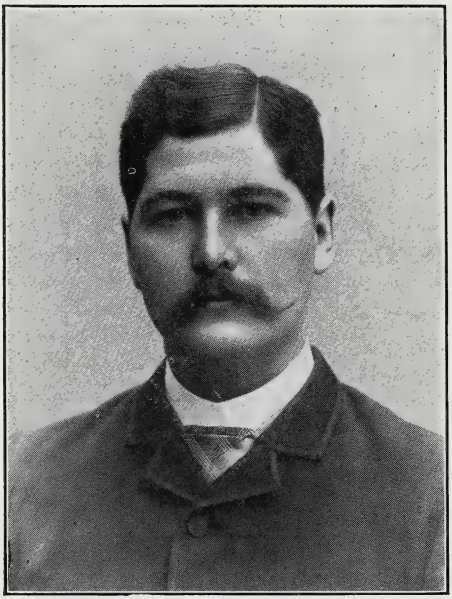
Mrs. Marvin, who died July 16, 1903, was an exemplary Christian character. She was prominent in Rachel Lodge, D. of R., and was also a member of the relief corps auxiliary to Merriam Post, G. A. R.

WILLIS N. BARBER.

Willis Norman Barber, druggist, of Meriden, a merchant who, though much engrossed in business, has for many years been a prominent figure in military and fraternal circles, was born in Harwinton, Conn., October 11, 1859. He is the son of the late Norman Buell, and Susan Beach (Wood) Barber. His father was the son of Loyal and Lucretia

(Buell) Barber, and his mother, a daughter of David B. and Beulah (Beach) Wood. His father lived in Harwinton until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted, August 28, 1862, in Litchfield, in Company A, Nineteenth Connecticut Volunteers, dying after one year's service.

In 1867 his mother was again married to E. Lyman Marvin,



WILLIS N. BARBER.

of whom a sketch appears elsewhere. Mr. Barber, coming to this city with his mother and stepfather in 1868, has ever since been identified with the town. He obtained his early education in the Center school, and after graduating in 1877, entered the store of his stepfather, where he commenced to learn the drug business. There he finished his course, becoming a registered pharmacist in 1883, and has always remained either as clerk or proprietor, with the exception of two years, when he was employed at the old Whittlesey drug store, New Haven.

Returning to Meriden in May, 1899, upon the death of Mr. Marvin and after having previously managed the store and looked after his mother's interests, in 1891 he purchased a part interest in the business, but since September, 1899, has been sole proprietor.

This store, the fourth oldest drug store in Meriden, has always enjoyed the unstinted patronage of the up town people, and has ever been conducted under honorable business principles, at the present day comprising an establishment of most modern pattern containing a large stock of pure drugs and medicines, sundries, and all the goods usually found in a high class drug store, as well as a large stock of stationery and periodicals.

Mr. Barber stands high in the drug trade, being a merchant of good repute and a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association and the Meriden Druggists' Association. He is also a director of the Meriden Business Men's Association.

In fraternal life he is one of the best known men of Meriden. He is a past master and has been for

several years treasurer of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.; member of Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M.; also of Hamilton Council, 22, R. & S. M.; and a past commander of St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T., and a member of Meriden Chapter, O. E. S. He is, as well, a member of the New Haven bodies of the Scottish Rite and of LaFayette Consistory, Bridgeport, where he obtained his thirty-second degree, and is a member of Pyramid Temple, M. S. Mr. Barber has also taken all the degrees in Odd Fellowship.

Since 1884 he has been a charter member of C. L. Upham Camp, 7, S. of V., and has held all the offices, not only in the camp, of which he was its first captain, but others within the gift of the state. He was colonel of the Connecticut division in 1891, and has served as special aide on the staff of the commander-in-chief, and attended several of the national encampments.

He began his creditable service in the Connecticut National Guard by enlisting, March 15, 1883, in Co. I, Second Regiment, from which he was discharged in 1888. In July, 1888, he again enlisted in the service, becoming a member of Co. B, C. N. G. (the New Haven Blues), in which he served until his return to Meriden, when, in August, 1889, he was appointed hospital steward on the staff of Col. John B. Doherty.

After six years' service in that capacity he was re-appointed by Col. Lucien F. Burpee, serving until the retirement of Col. Burpee, and thus completing a service of seventeen years. Sergeant Barber, while in the state militia took an active interest in rifle practice, shooting on both the Co. I and the regimental teams, winning several handsome decorations with the rifle. He has since presented to his old company, the Barber medal, shot for annually by the members of Co. I.

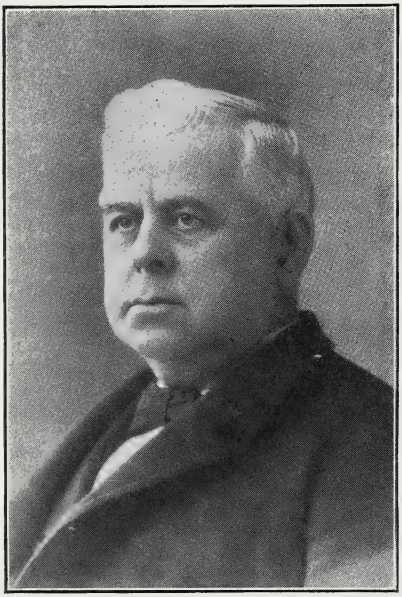
Mr. Barber was married in 1877 to Melissa, daughter of George H. and Maria (Lewis) Beckley of Meriden. The father of Mrs. Barber was the son of Luther Beckley, who was born at the old homestead, Beckley Quarter, Berlin, Conn., and her mother was the daughter of Partrick and Sarah (Flagg) Lewis. To Mr. and Mrs. Barber have been born the following children: Maude Beckley (Mrs. Chas. E. Wheeler); Norman George, a book-keeper at the office of the Chas. Parker Company; Lewis Willis, associated with his father in business; Ethleen Susan, a student at the Meriden High School, and Wauneita Ruth, who passed out when three years of age. Mr. Barber resides with his family in his own comfortable home at 32 Orient street.

EVAN OWEN.

Evan Owen, remembered for his good citizenship during a long residence in Meriden, was born in

Newtown, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, July 7, 1832. He came to this country in the spring of 1857, locating in Rockville, Conn. Owing to the financial panic of that period, he did not bring his family from Wales until two years later.

At Rockville and at Windermere (Ellington) he worked at his trade in woolen mills until after the close of the Civil War, when he went to Holyoke, Mass. He afterwards returned to Windermere, however, remaining there until 1873. In that year he came to Meriden and with the exception of a few years spent in Lawrence, Mass., and Chester, Pa., made this city his home until his death, which occurred September 1, 1900.



EVAN OWEN.

He was always deeply interested in politics, and was an ardent Republican from the time when he was a member of the "Wide-awakes" in Rockville during the Lincoln campaign of 1860, and thereafter as long as he lived. He never desired public office but was at one time a member of the board of selectmen of the town of Ellington, and at the time of his death was a member of the city government of Meriden, serving as a member of the common council from the Fifth ward.

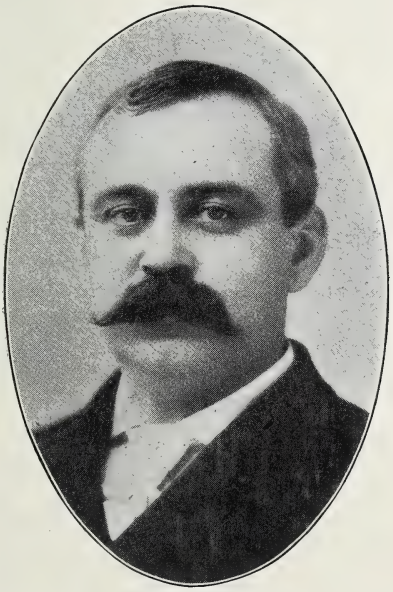
He was especially beloved in fraternal circles and was a member of Fayette Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Rockville, and Meriden Center Lodge, 68, I. O. O. F.

In 1850 he was married to Sarah Pryce, who, with his two sons, Llewellyn and Richard A., survive him and live in Meriden.

RICHARD A. OWEN.

Richard A. Owen, a valued citizen of Meriden for many years past, and since 1889 superintendent of the job printing and binding departments of The Journal Publishing Company, was born in Newtown, North Wales, April 27, 1855. He is one of the two sons of Evan and Sarah (Pryce) Owen. He came to this country when he was four years of age with his mother, two years after his father's arrival here, and went to live in Rockville. He came to Meriden in 1873 where he has ever since lived and for many years has been one of the most familiar fig-

ures of the town associated with the printing business. He began to learn the art preservative at the office of the Meriden Recorder in 1874, later becoming employed at the office of the Meriden Republican. In 1875 he went to work for E. A. Horton, with whom he remained for more than seven years. In 1883 with Charles E. Bibeau as a partner, and under the firm name of Owen & Bibeau, he engaged in the job printing business for himself. The firm continued the business successfully for six years, until 1889, when they sold out to The Journal Publishing Co. Since that date Mr. Owen has held his present responsible position, where his efforts have redounded to the credit of The Journal Publishing Company, whose extensive printery and bindery has during his superintendency become one of the most complete in all New England. Mr. Owen is well versed in his calling, is an almost infallible authority in all things typographical and his knowledge and judgment are often turned to the good advantage of the customer and the author.



RICHARD A. OWEN.

He is a member of Meriden Center Lodge, 68, I. O. O. F.; A. H. Hall Council, 1423, R. A., and Electric Lodge, 50, N. E. O. P.

He was married October 25, 1876, to Elizabeth J. Barlow, and to them were born two children, Grace Elizabeth, died September 30, 1885, aged six years; and Alice Cary, died February 20, 1889, aged seven years. Mr Owen resides in his own comfortable residence at 50 Fourth street.

W. H. THOMPSON.

William Henry Thompson, merchant of Meriden, and who conducts, on Colony street, an extensive ice cream and confectionery business, was born in New Haven. After acquiring a good common school education, at the age of seventeen he went to Philadelphia to learn the trade of a confectioner under Whitman. After ten years at his trade, Mr. Thompson engaged in business in the Quaker City.

He came to Meriden in 1879 and opened a store at 75 West Main street. After conducting business at that location for a period of twenty-one years, he removed to his present estab-

lishment on Colony street, which is justly considered one of the handsomest and best equipped of its kind in all New England, and where he has facilities for manufacturing the confectionery for a large retail trade, comprised largely of the elite of the city, and also for manufacturing ice cream in large quantities which he has always served to the public in its purest, richest and most delectable form.

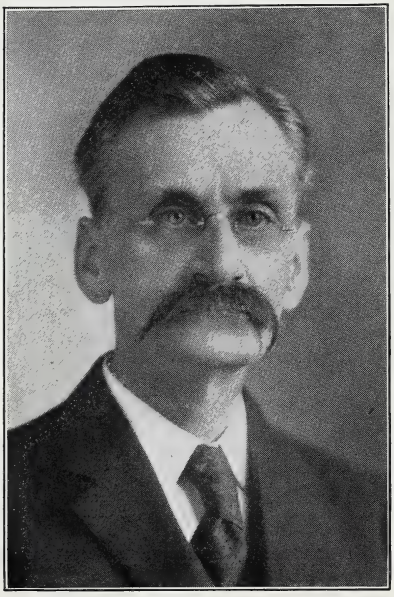


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
W. H. THOMPSON.

Mr. Thompson is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and the Meriden Business Men's Association. He has two sons, George H., a talented musician and organist of Plymouth Congregational church at New Haven, and Charles E., associated with his father in business.

JOHN H. PARKER.

John H. Parker, an estimable citizen of Meriden and owner of the Parker block, one of the most substantial business structures of the town, was born in Windsor, Vermont, January 12, 1857. He is the son of George A. Parker, a native of Ashford, Conn., who married Laura L. Conant of Reading, Vt. Mr. Parker, on the maternal side, is a direct descendant of Roger Conant, who emigrated to this country, landing at Plymouth, Mass., in July, 1623, making the passage in the ship "Ann". Under the Sheffield or Cape Ann charter, he was the predecessor of Endicott as governor of the Colony, with residence at Salem, and was appointed as such by the Dorchester Company, an office he held for some three years, and until the Massachusetts Bay Colony was chartered by King James in 1628. He is also a direct descendant of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

George A. Parker, father of John H., was a gun and spectacle maker in his young manhood, and was employed in the government armory at Windsor. About a year and a half after the birth of our subject, he came to Meriden with his family, driving the entire distance. He came to Meriden to take charge of a livery stable then located on East Main street where the Morse & Norton block now stands, and which stable was owned by Prosper Merrill, a wealthy manufacturer of Vermont,

and which had previously been conducted by his son. Mr. Parker with his young wife and child took up his residence on East Main street.

John H. Parker in his boyhood was given the best education the



GEORGE A. PARKER.

town afforded and finished by taking the high school course at the Old Corner School, under Prof. A. B. Mather, graduating with the class of 1872. He began his business life in the store of W. W. Mosher, where he learned the drug business. After two years' experience he secured a position in a drug store in Hartford, one year later entering the New York College of Pharmacy, where after taking a two years' course, he graduated in 1877, and later, after serving one year in the drug store of John W. Shedden, corner of Broadway and 34th street, New York City, he entered the drug business on his own account by opening a well patronized store at the corner of 6th avenue and 124th street, where he continued successfully for six years.

After the completion of his business block, one of the most desirable and thoroughly built structures on the main thoroughfare of Meriden,



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

JOHN H. PARKER.

and which during its construction was under the supervision of his father, he returned to Meriden and occupied the corner store, fitting up the same as a drug store, disposing

of his interests in New York City. Mr. Parker conducted the drug store in his business block thereafter for a period of twenty years, retiring from the drug business in June, 1904, with a well earned competency and after having made an enviable business record. He has since devoted himself to the care of his real estate. He is a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association, and the Meriden Druggists' Association. He



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.
PARKER BLOCK.

is also a member of Myrtle Lodge, 4, Knights of Pythias, and was once for many years treasurer of the Patriot Order of the Sons of America. He is also a member and one of the executive committee of the Colonial Club. He is a member of the First Congregational Church.

On November 23, 1880, he was married to Mary E. Balcom of New York City, to whom two daughters and one son have been born as follows. Marion Conant, born in 1881, married Edward C. Waterman of Troy, N. Y., and to whom one son, John Parker Waterman, was born February 8, 1906; Laura Albertina Parker, born in 1884; and Robert Lane Parker, born 1890. The parents of Mr. Parker are still living in Meriden.

S. C. PIERSON.

Stephen Condit Pierson was born at Orange, N. J., Nov. 18, 1841, son of Aaron and Mary C. (Ogden) Pierson.

Ancestry: Thomas Pierson of Yorkshire, England, who with his brother, Rev. Abraham Pierson, (father of the first president of Yale College) was a founder of Southampton, L. I., Branford, Conn., and Newark, N. J.; John Odgen, born 1610 at Corfe Castle, Dorset County, England, built the first church in New York City (within the old Dutch fort) in 1643, named on Royal Charter 1662, as assistant to Governor Winthrop, the founder of Elizabeth, N. J., and "Schout" of the English towns in New Jersey; Edward Howell, (gent.) born 1584, Marsh Gibbon, Bucks County, England, purchased east end of Long Island for his colony, and for the honor of being the first English settler of New York state, his (Howell) coat of arms was carved on the stairway of the present capitol at Al-

bany; Richard Treat, born London 1584, named in Connecticut charter 1662 as assistant to Governor Winthrop; Robert Treat (son of Richard) born London 1622, commander-in-chief Connecticut troops in King Philip's War, magistrate New Haven Colony 1661-65, governor of Connecticut 1672, governor or deputy-governor for thirty years, a founder of Newark, N. J.; Jasper Crane, a founder of New Haven and Branford, also a founder and chief magistrate of Newark, N. J. His son married Mary, daughter of Governor Robert Treat. Richard Harrison, a founder of New Haven and Branford; Joseph Baldwin, a founder of Milford; Rev. Peter Prudden, the leader of Milford and a founder of New Haven; Daniel Dod, a founder of Branford; Henry Botsford, a founder of Milford.

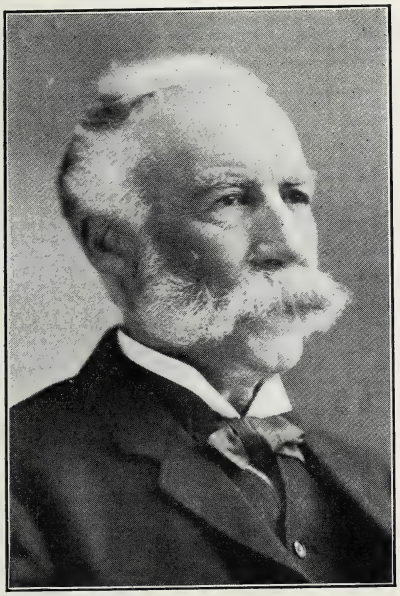


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
S. C. PIERSON.

Mr. Pierson resided in Hartford 1850-65, graduated at Yale in the class of 1864, and took post-graduate course of one year at Sheffield Scientific School; then was member of N. Y. C. R. R. engineer corps and thereafter in the employ of the N. H., H. & S. R. R., and engaged in railroad surveys, for the most part, until coming to Meriden. Since 1888 has been, and still is, actively engaged as civil engineeer and surveyor.

He was city engineer and surveyor from the organization of the city to 1888, with the exception of four years. During this time the more important streets laid out, and for the most part graded and sidewalked, were as follows.—Crown, Camp, Bunker Avenue, North Colony, South Colony, West Main, East Main, Pratt, Center, Britannia, Griswold, Hicks, Warren, Sherman Avenue, Franklin, Lewis Avenue, Linsley Avenue, Hanover to end of New City, Maple, Grove, Columbia, Lincoln, Miller, Liberty, Cook Avenue from West Main to Harrington Hill, Veteran, Willow, Pleasant, Elm, High, Cooper, Hobart, Olive, Oak, School, Cottage, Newton, Broad and Curtis. Harbor Brook from Miller Street was laid out and graded, and the dams removed.

Married at Simsbury, Sept. 23, 1868, Hannah Pettibone Latimer, who was ever diligent in ministries and good works, and died Sept. 22, 1883.

Married Mrs. Mindwell Hastings Glazier Sept. 18, 1890.

Children. I Guy Rowland Phelps, died young.

II Decius Latimer, died 1897 at age of twenty-five years.

III Mary Caroline Ogden who married June 7, 1898, Horace Bushnell Cheney of South Manchester. They have children, Horace Bushnell, Antoinette Phelps and Stephen Pierson.

IV Antoinette Randolph Phelps, died 1903, aged twenty-seven years.

V Lucy Wilcox, who married April 6, 1904, George Francis Dominick of New York. They have one child, Antoinette Pierson.

A. E. AUSTIN.

Abner Ellsworth Austin for many years prominent in the business life of the community, was born in North Haven, September 13, 1839. He was educated in the common schools of his native town and brought up on his father's farm, where from early boyhood he was taught the value of industrious habits. His father, Joseph Austin, died when Abner was fourteen years old and a portion of the property was thereafter managed by him for agriculture until April, 1905.

At the age of sixteen, in addition to carrying on the share of the farm which he had inherited, and also his mother's portion, he engaged in the meat business, first on a small scale, driving a meat cart and doing his own butchering. At twenty he married Ruth B., daughter of Eben

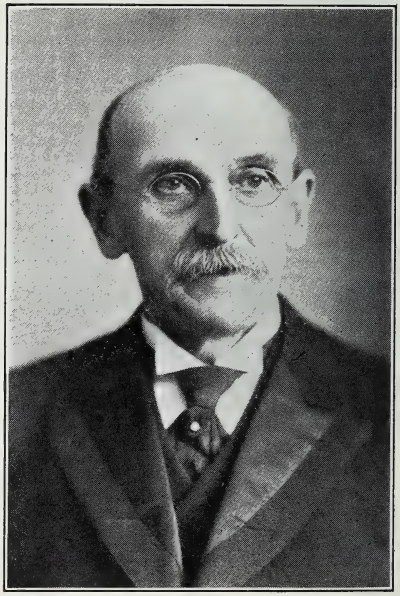


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
A. E. AUSTIN.

J. Coe, of Stony Creek, who died in Meriden in 1895, and to that union was born one daughter, Sarah Florence, who married Dr. H. A. Meeks of Meriden. Mr. Austin continued with growing success in the meat business until 1867 when he came to Meriden and engaged in business with his brother-in-law as a member

of the firm of Coe & Austin, and the firm during the four years ensuing carried on the largest retail market business in Meriden, also doing their own butchering, which was common in that period. In 1871 they sold out their successful business to Charles Grether.

The following March, Mr. Austin engaged in the livery stable business by buying out the Meriden House stables, which were then conducted by Orrin Carpenter, and where he became one of the best known horsemen in the state. He conducted the Meriden House stables until 1890 when he built the present four story brick stable at the corner of High School avenue and Church street where he became possessed of better facilities and more room and did a larger business than before until March 15, 1903, when he disposed of the livery business, still retaining his ownership of the building, which is the largest livery stable in the city and one of the most desirable in the state. During Mr. Austin's career in the livery stable business, he not only provided fine driving equipages and furnished carriages for every occasion, but his stables always contained fine specimen of the equine race, and he became famous as a dealer in well bred horses of which he is a connoisseur.

Mr. Austin has done much in improving local real estate and with others showed keen foresight in acquiring land in the once undeveloped section of Lewis and Springdale avenues which he later disposed of advantageously. He built his own comfortable residence on East Main street in 1874, the contractor whom he employed being the late George Gay.

Mr. Austin was one of the founders of the Meriden Trotting Park Association, and is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., but is not affiliated with any other organization. He was married the second time in 1899 to Mary Gilbert of North Haven.

H. L. MOREHOUSE.

Henry L. Morehouse, Meriden's leading carpenter and builder, was born in New Milford, Conn. He comes from one of the oldest families in the state and is a son of the late Cyrus A. and Cornelia (Canfield) Morehouse, and is directly descended from Thomas Morehouse who came to Wethersfield in 1640, but the following year settled in Stamford where he received a grant of seven acres of land which was his portion. Besides tilling the soil and clearing the forest he conducted a gristmill later in life at Fairfield.

His father was a marble worker and lived and died at New Milford.

Henry L. Morehouse received a common school education which was supplemented by attendance at the Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie, from which he graduated in 1866. After learning the trade of a carpenter and builder at the shops of

Mr. Dykeman at Bridgeport, he made his start in business for himself in that city.

In 1869 he removed his business to New Haven and in 1872 came to Meriden where he has since resided and done business, achieving a high reputation as a contractor and an esteemed citizen. His business grew with his reputation and for some years Mr. Morehouse has possessed a large plant for the storage, dressing and matching of lumber. For some years the office and entrance to the plant were on State street but since 1901 both the business of Mr. Morehouse and that of the Morehouse Bros. Company have been brought under cover and the office removed to 24 Miller street, and the plant is now one of the most complete, best equipped and ably managed in New England.

Being one of the leading carpenters and builders of this part of the state, Mr. Morehouse has naturally constructed several of the imposing buildings of Meriden and vicinity which stand as monuments to his thorough and conscientious work.

Among these could be mentioned the Meriden High School and the St. Laurent's Roman Catholic Church, many factories and business blocks.

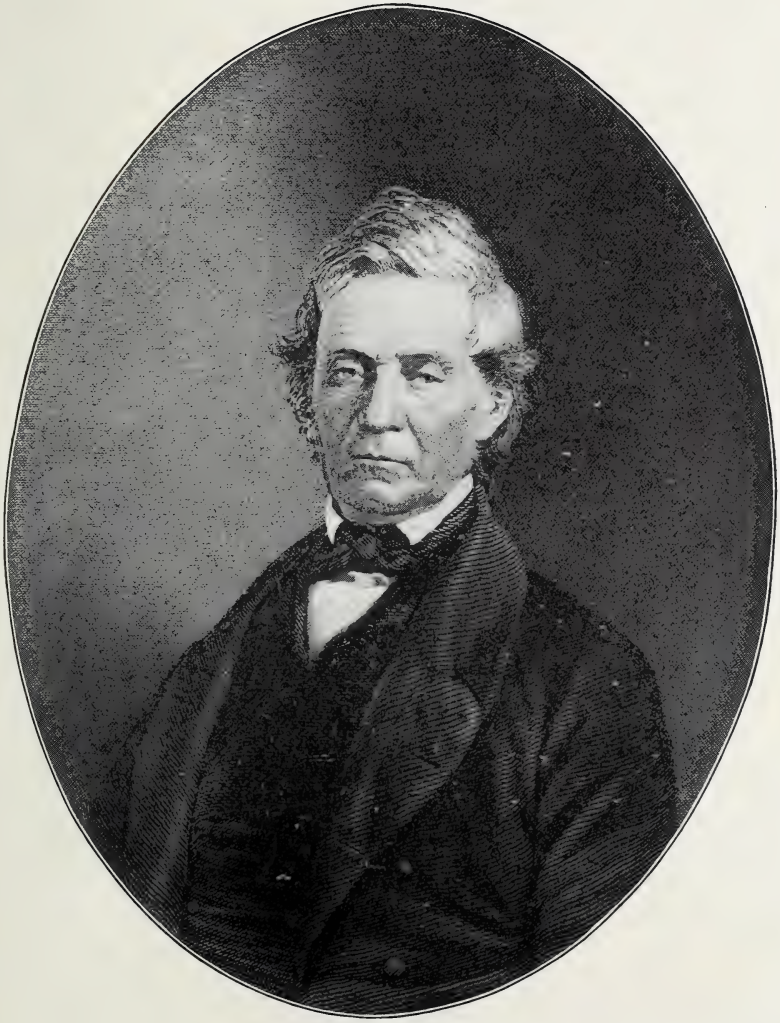
Mr. Morehouse has always taken an active interest in everything that pertains to the welfare of his adopted city. He has never sought nor held a public office and is a man of domestic tastes and habits. He is always to be counted upon in matters where local pride is concerned.

Mr. Morehouse has four children as follows: Allison F., with the A. L. Robinson Co., of New York City, secretary of the Morehouse Bros. Company; Andrew C., of Meriden, treasurer of that company; Mattie C. and Franklin L. Morehouse.

NOAH POMEROY.

Noah Pomeroy, a man who took an active part in the affairs of Meriden, was a worthy descendant of honorable ancestry. One of his ancestors, Eltweed Pomeroy, came from England in the ship John and Mary, it is understood, landing in Dorchester, Mass., now a part of Boston, March, 1630. He descended from Ralph de Pomeroi, who went to England from Normandy with William the Conqueror, (11th century) taking active part in the conquest for which he was knighted.

Eltweed settled in Dorchester where he was prominent in organizing the provisional government. In 1637 he removed to Windsor, Conn., for permanent settlement. Like many of his descendants he was a blacksmith, which trade meant more than now that machinery is superseding handicraft. In the settlement of Massachusetts and Connecticut they were welcome artisans, being granted large tracts of land to induce them to settle and carry on business. They were the gunsmiths of their locations, wild beasts and savages making the gun a necessity. In the French and Indian wars the Pomeroy gun was in great



Noah Pomeroy

demand and in the Revolution, indispensable. Before the United States had an armory the private armories of the Pomeroys were famous. These men were of liberal and independent minds, determined to preserve their civil and religious liberties. Among their descendants were successful merchants, civil engineers, lawyers and ministers, one of the last named profession was Samuel Pomeroy, a graduate of Yale College in 1705.

Noah Pomeroy was born in Saybrook, Conn., March 1, 1786, the youngest of five children. His father, Charles Pomeroy, a merchant of that place, who died shortly before Noah's birth, was a soldier of the Revolution, who enlisted July 8, 1775, as sergeant and served in the Sixth company, Col. Charles Webb's regiment. In 1776, he joined Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour's light horse cavalry as paymaster and in 1777 was appointed receiver of the 400 pounds of powder granted Saybrook. At the age of ten Noah began to earn his living, working summers, saving his meager earnings, thereby enabling him to attend school winters. At fifteen he commenced peddling tin, of which he eventually became a manufacturer, not only of plain, but japanned and ornamented ware, which industry he carried on in several locations, finally moving it to Meriden in 1818 where he bought a farm and spent the rest of a useful life. He retired, nominally, from business in 1839, leaving it to his sons, but continuing to exercise an oversight of the finances, suggesting improvements and inventing machinery that made the establishment a leading one. For pastime, when not engaged in official duties, for he held every office within the gift of his townsmen, he devoted his still unabated energies to the improvement of his farm.

He filled the office of justice of the peace by appointment of the legislature as long as it possessed the power to appoint. His knowledge of law and impartial judgment were such that an appeal was never taken from his decisions. He was an ardent advocate of progression and reform contending for the broadest religious and political liberty. He earnestly urged the calling of the convention which remodeled the state constitution and expunged many of those statutes known as "blue laws." In 1832 he was elected to the legislature and in 1837 was chosen senator from the Sixth district.

When the Meriden Bank was organized in 1833 he was made a director and in 1849 its president. From 1851 he was a charter member and a trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank.

Mr. Pomeroy was a lifelong Universalist and an ardent supporter of that faith. In his house the Universalists of Meriden held their first meetings. There also in 1821 the first sermon in Meriden by a Universalist minister was preached.

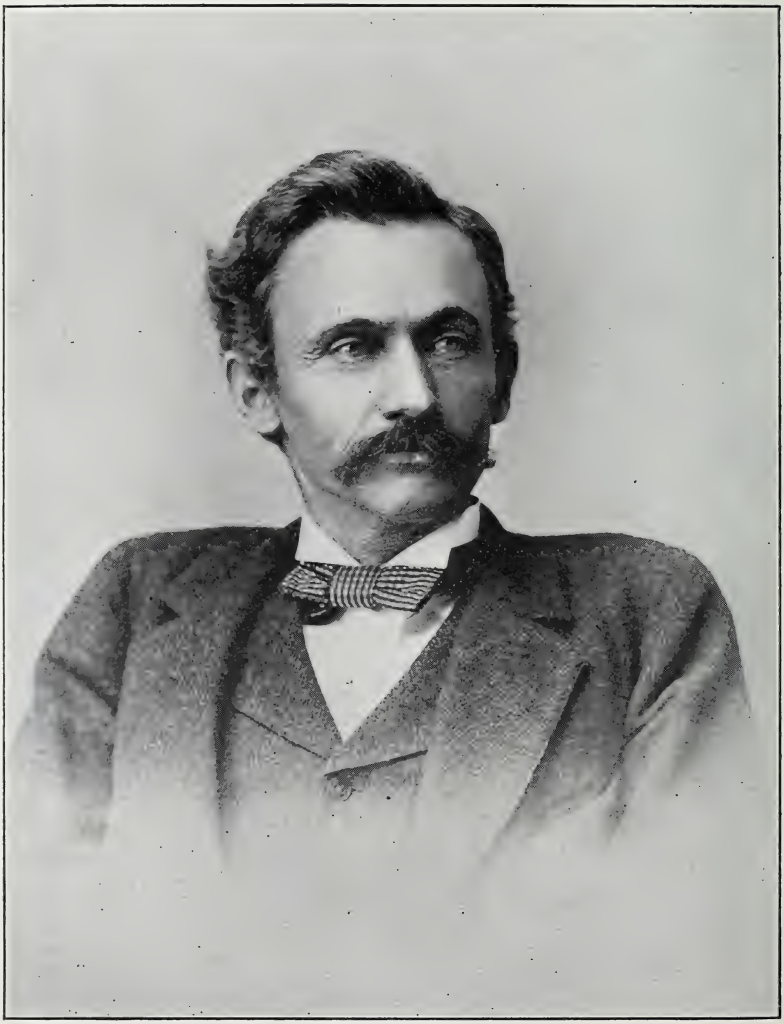
He took a deep interest in the Civil War and the abolition of slavery which he lived to see accomplished. He cast his last vote for General Grant for

president, dying November 23, 1868. He was twice married; first to Nancy Merriman, a descendant of Lieutenant Nathaniel Merriman, a first settler of Wallingford, Conn., by whom he had ten children: Cornelia, Eliphalet, Angelina (Mrs. Eli Ives), Eliza (Mrs. John S. Blake), Harriet (Mrs. Isaac C. Lewis), Norman, Eugenia (Mrs. James P. Stow), Nancy, Charles and James T., none of whom are living. His second wife was Hattie Hasen, also deceased, by whom he had two daughters, Hattie (Mrs. George B. Foote) and Cornelia, the former of whom is now living.

HENRY JAMES LEWIS.

Henry James Lewis was born at Meriden, Connecticut, on October 21, 1841. He was the son of Isaac C. and Harriet (Pomeroy) Lewis. His father was one of Meriden's most prominent citizens and one-time mayor, a worthy descendant of William Lewis, who came to this country from England on the ship "Lion," landing in Boston, Mass., in 1632, and settling in Cambridge. Four years later, William Lewis became one of the Rev. Thomas Hooker Company that settled in Hartford, and still later he removed to Farmington, where was built the homestead that is yet standing as a part of the "Elm Tree Inn," known now and for many years as a famous hostelry. The land, a tract sixteen miles square, he, together with Samuel Steele, bought from the Indians on behalf of the Farmington Company. Henry J. Lewis was also descended from Jared Lewis, a patriot of the Revolutionary War, who served in the Continental Army in the regiment commanded by Col. Canfield and on the maternal side from Sergeant Charles Pomeroy, also a soldier of the Revolution. By virtue of this ancestry, Mr. Lewis was a member of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He was educated in the common schools of Meriden, later attending the Meriden Academy, finishing his schooling at Eaton's Commercial College, Worcester, Mass. He began his business career by entering the office of the Meriden Britannia Company, of which his father was one of the founders. Some years after this he went into the hardware business as a partner of N. F. Griswold, under the style of Griswold & Lewis. About 1880 he disposed of his interest to John L. Richmond. Always a lover of outdoor life, he removed to Stony Creek, where he could engage in a business that should satisfy his desire. Here he had from boyhood owned one of the Thimble Islands, charted as "Lewis Island." The business of his choice was that of oyster cultivation, and he was one of the first men in the state to realize the importance this industry was to attain. It was not long before he made his headquarters, first, at Bridgeport and later at Stratford. From now on he rapidly built up a business of huge proportions until his



Henry J. Lewis

holdings extended from Norwalk eastward along the Sound as far as Guilford and Madison, with wharves, shops and offices at various places, and additional oyster-beds off the south shore of Long Island and in the waters of Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. In 1895 the Connecticut business was organized as the H. J. Lewis Oyster Company. Under the name of this corporation Mr. Lewis became possessed of a title to more than 10,000 acres of territory in Connecticut waters alone, thus being at the time of his death the largest holder of oyster grounds in the state. His Long Island branch was incorporated as the Lewis Blue Point Oyster Cultivation Company, with headquarters at Sayville, L. I.

Mr. Lewis was also interested as a stockholder and director in a number of banks, trust companies, and industrial enterprises. Some of the Meriden concerns were the International Silver Company, of which he was one of the large stockholders, the Meriden National Bank, and the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company; he was president of the Horton Printing Company and a director of Edward Miller & Company and the Miller Brothers Cutlery Company. These varied interests kept him vigorously active up to the day of his death.

On August 7, 1884, Mr. Lewis married Mary E. Stringer, daughter of William C. and Mary Stringer, of Cold Spring, Long Island, N. Y. They had four children, Henry Leroy, Helen Margery, Kate May and Isaac Chauncey.

Never a seeker after publicity or popularity, Mr. Lewis devoted himself to his business and his home, and disliked nothing more than a parade of his virtues. Yet a biographical sketch omitting all mention of character and characteristics could hardly be regarded as satisfactory.

His ability to see, and quickness to grasp opportunities, prove him to have been possessed of the two prime essentials of business success—good judgment combined with courage. Indeed, of business sagacity he had a generous endowment both by nature and by heritage. This, however, was but one phase of a singularly well-balanced temperament. Even more dominant traits were the equity which earned him the hearty good-will of his business associates, the sympathy and generosity that made of his force of employes a little army devoted to his interests, and the philanthropy whose manifestations were known only to those institutions and individuals that stood in the position of beneficiaries. The town of Stratford, which he made his place of residence for a score of years, has known no man that ever did more for the town and its people than did he. To talk with him, no matter on what subject, was to be impressed with the sanity of his outlook; to appeal to him in behalf of a worthy cause was to be convinced of the genuine spirit of kindness and sympathy that ruled his life.

He died at his home in Stratford, on the 11th day of January, 1902.

AARON L. COLLINS.

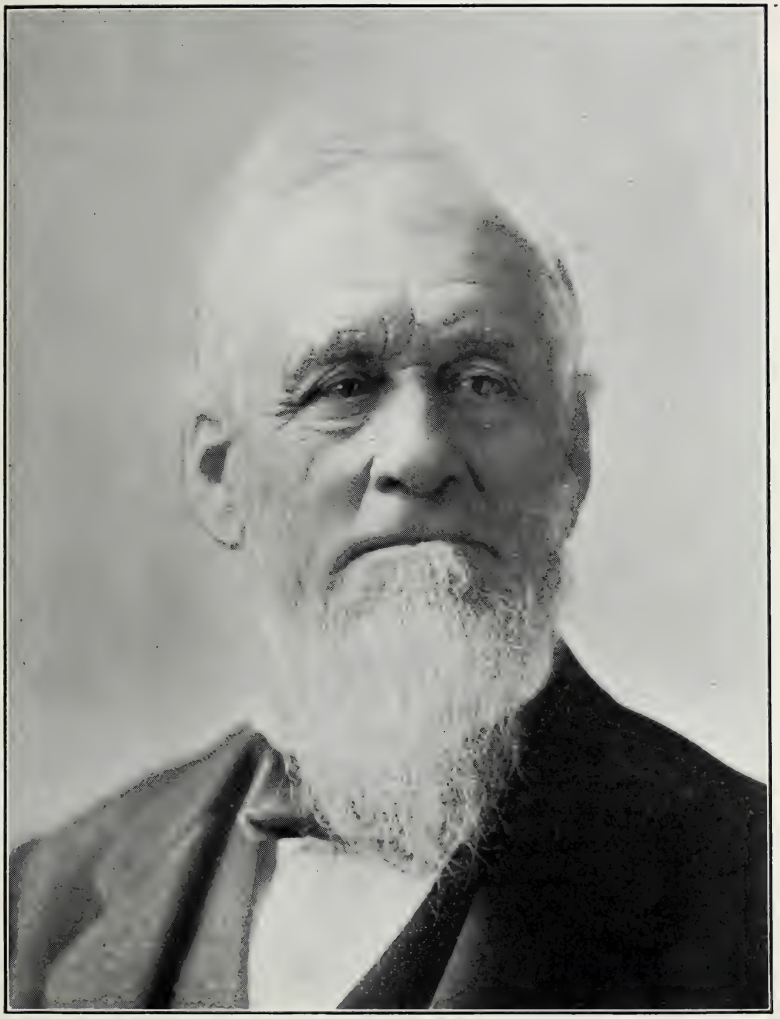
A sturdy son of Meriden was Aaron Lyman Collins who, during a long and useful life, was an influential figure in the town and city. He was one of the sons of Lyman and Elizabeth (Carter) Collins and was born in the house on East Main street hill owned and occupied by his father and grandfather before him. His father carried on a large farm and was an extensive owner of land which he acquired when property valuation was many times less than at the present day.

Aaron L. Collins was reared among healthful surroundings and he attended the common schools of the town. He began a long and successful business career by starting in the grocery business on Broad street with his brother, the late Charles Collins. The venture was successful and the Collins brothers built up a large trade and established a reputation for business acumen maintained by them through life. In 1854 the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Collins became associated with Pratt, Ropes, Webb & Co., who conducted the manufacture of cutlery in the location at South Meriden now occupied by the Meriden Cutlery Company. Of this firm he became a traveling salesman, each year becoming a more important factor in the business until 1878, when he was elected president of the Meriden Cutlery Company, which through his wise and conservative management was kept on a solid business basis as long as he lived, continuing to carry out his duties as the head of that large concern for about forty years and until within a short time previous to his death which occurred March 25, 1903.

Mr. Collins had interests in other Meriden factories, and was a large stockholder in various other Meriden industries, and for a number of years, until it was absorbed by the International Silver Company, he was president of the Wilcox Silver Plate Company. He was also a director of the Home National Bank, a trustee of the City Savings Bank and was president of the Meriden Grain & Feed Company. During his long and useful life Mr. Collins maintained a large farm of sixty acres situated on what is now Williams avenue, and in his early life owned many acres on East Main street hill; a portion of the latter, however, he cut up into house lots, and the once extensive property is now invaded by many streets, upon which substantial residences stand.

Mr. Collins was a man who held the entire respect of the people of the town and city of which he was privileged to take an important part in its growth from a small village. He was eminently successful as a business man and his loss to the community is one not easily filled, especially at the Center Congregational church, of which he was a valued member and generous contributor.

He was married to Sylvia, daughter of Rev. Mr. White, of Middlefield,



A. L. Collins

Conn., and three sons survived him: Charles Lyman, of Clinton, Edward John, since deceased, and Benjamin White Collins.

EDWARD J. COLLINS.

Edward J. Collins, a lifelong resident, whose life was cut short in his prime through the wisdom of the Almighty, was one of the most lovable personal characters in Meriden. At the time of his death he was manager of the Boston office of the Meriden Cutlery Company. He was born in the old Collins homestead on East Main street on March 31, 1856 and was the second son of the late Aaron Lyman Collins, a leading and influential citizen of the town and for forty years president of the Meriden Cutlery Company. His ancestors in this town date back to Robert Collins, who came to Meriden in 1727 and became a large land owner, since which time the family name has held an honored place in the history of the town.

Edward J. Collins with his brothers, Charles L., and Benjamin W. Collins, a sketch of the latter of whom immediately follows this, was reared on his father's large farm in East Meriden. He was possessed of strong mental and physical vigor and although he was given an opportunity to prove himself in business by his father, his success was due to his ability to make the most of his opportunities. In 1879 after securing a good, practical education he entered the Meriden Cutlery Company as a foreman of the stock department, where he became familiar with the methods of manufacture and the product of the company. In 1894 he was promoted to traveling salesman, his territory comprising New England and New York, and in 1898 he took charge of the Boston office of the company. During this long period he became one of the best known and most popular traveling men in the hardware trade, his sunny disposition, even temperament, and proverbial good nature under all circumstances making him a general favorite with all. He had the faculty not only of making but of holding friends to whom he was always loyal. He was a man who could be counted upon whether in business, social or private life.

After the death of his father he became one of the directors of the Meriden Cutlery Company, and was also one of the directors of the Meriden Grain & Feed Company. Mr. Collins was a thirty-second degree member of the Masonic fraternity, being affiliated with all the different branches of the order in Connecticut including Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M., Meriden; LaFayette Consistory at Bridgeport, and Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine.

His death was a particularly sad one owing to the fact that he had been married but four months, and was building a handsome residence on School street on land owned by the Collins family for four genera-



E. J. Collins.

tions, where he was to make his home with his newly wedded wife.

He was married June 28, 1904, to Miss Elizabeth J. Mahon, daughter of Thomas Mahon of South Meriden, who survives him and makes her home in Meriden. His funeral was largely attended and the active and honorary pall bearers included men prominent in public, business and social life. The following resolutions adopted by the Meriden Cutlery Company express a measure of the esteem in which he was held in the community.

"For the third time within the brief period of less than two years this board is called to deplore the loss of an honored member. Mr. Edward J. Collins died at his home in Boston, October 19, 1904, at the close of a brief but severe illness.

"In the midst of a useful life in accordance with the workings of an inscrutable Providence he was taken from us. We as a body desire to leave upon record a testimonial which shall speak our profound esteem for one deceased associate therefore: Resolved that for the excellence of his business qualities, for his faithfulness in the performance of every duty intrusted to his care in the interest of the company; for his worth as a man and a citizen we seek through this memorial to give honor to his memory; Resolved that these resolutions be spread upon the records of the company and a copy sent to the family. Directors, Homer A. Curtiss, John L. Billard, James W. Gildersleeve, Charles L. Rockwell, Robt. W. Hallam, Frank P. Wilcox, A. Chamberlain and Walter Hubbard."

BENJAMIN W. COLLINS.

Benjamin White Collins, an active man of affairs in business and agricultural circles, is of a family for many years a leading one in Meriden. He is a son of the late Aaron L. Collins, and a worthy descendant of early colonial ancestry. Lewis Collins came to this country from England in 1630 and with his four sons, Nathan, John, Albert and Dexter, located in Charlestown, Mass., and whose grandson, John Collins (second) became one of the patentees of Guilford, this state, where as early as 1682 he taught grammar school. His family in Meriden dates back to Robert Collins, who settled on a portion of the Belcher farm in 1727. Captain Daniel Collins, of Meriden, served three enlistments in the Revolutionary war; first in 1775 as sergeant in Captain Haven's company; again in 1777; and in 1779 responded to the New Haven alarm, serving in Col. Thaddeus Cook's regiment, assisting in the defense of Ledyard. For valiant service he was made a captain in 1780 and was then stationed at Guilford in the defense of the coast. Lyman, grandfather of Benjamin W. Collins, also of Meriden, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and like his ancestors, became a large owner of land in Meriden, which afterwards became possessed by his heirs.

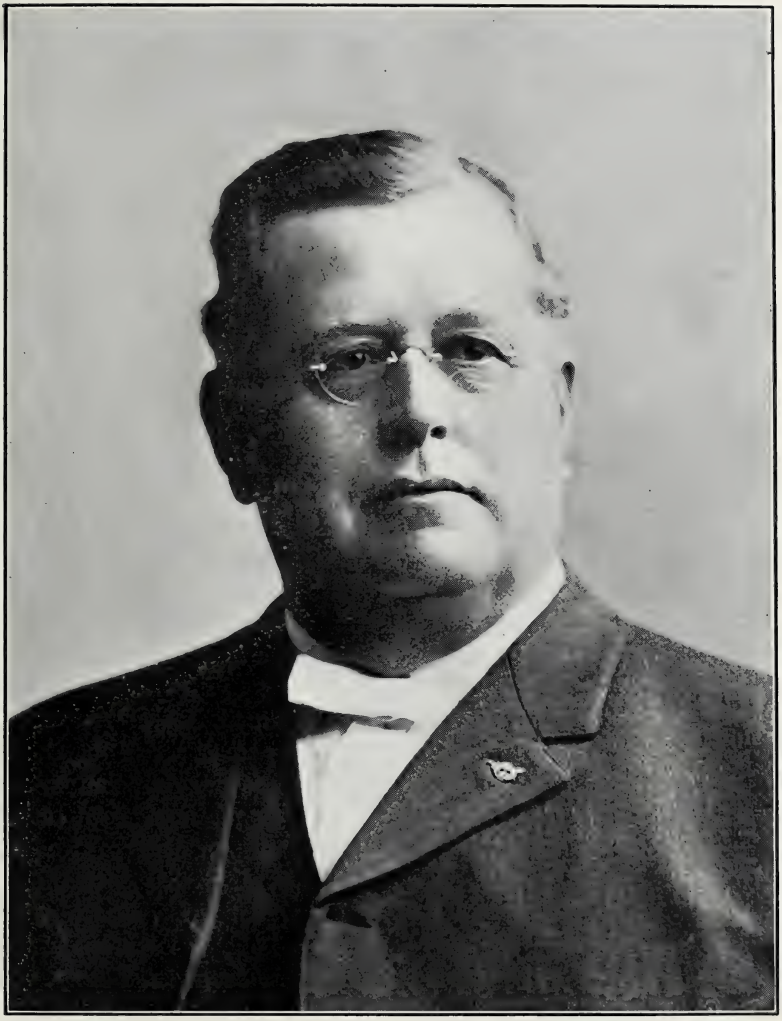


Photo by H. T. Shaw.

Benj. H. Collins

Benjamin W. Collins is the fourth generation born in the old Collins homestead on East Main street hill, where he still resides and where he first saw light April 1, 1859. He attended the old Center school and became trained in matters of business and agriculture long before he reached his majority. His father's large farming and other interests gave him ample opportunity for assuming responsibilities long before he had reached the years of discretion of the ordinary youth. The farm of sixty acres he took an important part in the management of, and as well looked after the family real estate. He has for many years been interested in the raising of fine stock and has bred many good blooded horses as well as pure Jersey cows. In 1895, with his father, he became possessed of the old established hay, grain and feed business of A. S. Russell on South Colony street. In December, 1897, they incorporated the business under the present name of the Meriden Grain & Feed Co., of which he has been the leading spirit in the management and since the death of his father, the former president, he has held the offices of both treasurer and president. Under his able management the business has increased every year and is at this writing of large proportions, the concern doing its own milling and grinding on the premises and dealing in flour, seed and fertilizer, as well as hay, grain and feed. Mr. Collins is also a large stockholder and one of the board of control of the large potato dealing concern of the R. D. Prentice Co., which controls twenty-three potato jobbing houses in the state of Maine. He is also a large real estate owner and taxpayer and interested in several local manufacturing industries and is one of the directors of the Home National Bank. In politics he is a Republican. He has served as a member of the board of selectmen and for the past ten years as one of the school board of Meriden. He is also a member of the Town Hall Building Committee and one of the reception committee of the Meriden Centennial.

He is a thirty-second degree member of the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the following bodies of the state: Center Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, R. & S. M.; St. Elmo Commandery, K. T., and the Scottish rite bodies of New Haven and Bridgeport. He is also a member of Pyramid Temple, M. S. and of Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum. Mr. Collins is treasurer of the Connecticut Cattle Breeders Association, secretary of the Connecticut Agricultural Society and president of the Meriden Agricultural Society.

He was married March 5, 1895, to Sophia Lovell Northrop and to that union one daughter, Betsey, was born October 9, 1901.

OWEN B. ARNOLD.

Owen Brainard Arnold, financier and literatus, deceased, and who was associated with the life of Meriden for

nearly half a century, was born in Haddam, Conn., the home of his ancestors for many generations, July 11, 1818. He was the son of Jared and Susan (Brainard) Arnold. On the maternal side he was descended from David Brainard, a native of Braintree, England, one of twenty-eight persons who moved to Haddam, Conn., from Hartford in 1662, and took up large sections of land deeded by the Indians to Matthew Allyn and Samuel Wyllis. Daniel Brainard became the largest land owner in the town and his property included not only much land in what is now known as Haddam proper but all now covered by the present village of Higganum. From that early colonial period the name has ever since been prominent in the town.

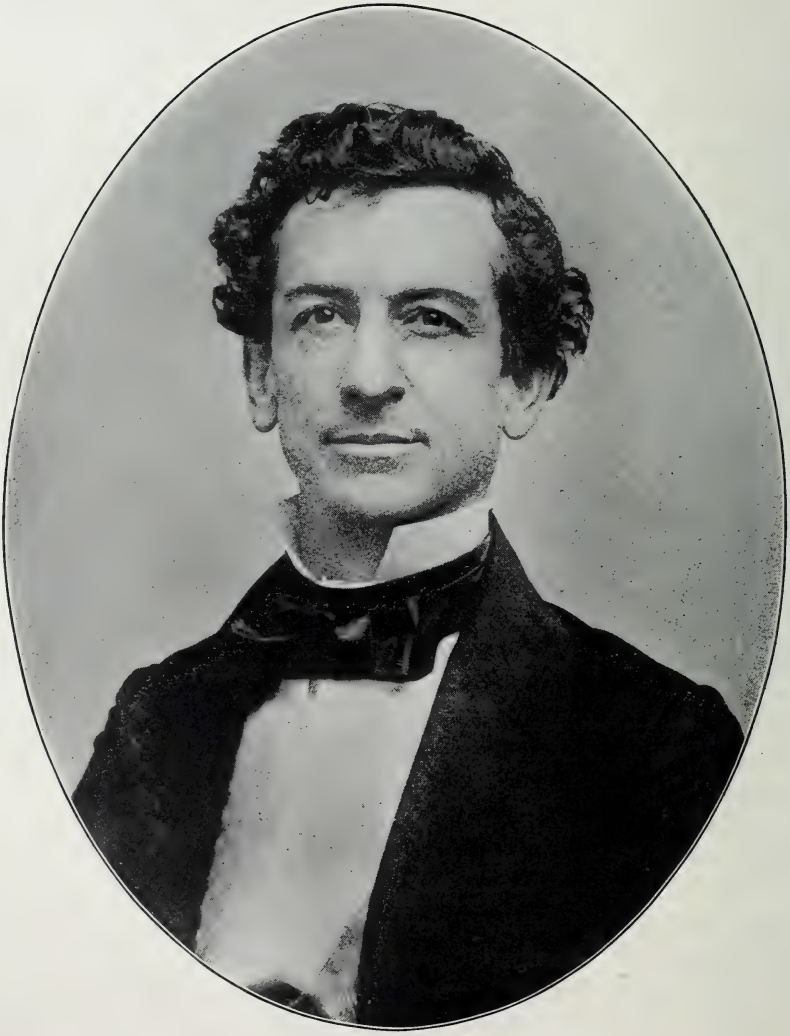
In his boyhood, Mr. Arnold was industrious and while he was given a good education, he showed an independence not only in thought and action but in monetary affairs. Among his playmates were many men who achieved national prominence in various walks of life, and among them Cyrus W. Field. To work he thought was honorable, and when not employing his time in the school room, did work about his father's farm, and occasionally neighboring farms. After receiving due preparation, he entered Yale College, taking the academic course; he was considered one of the brilliant men of the class of 1837 with which he was graduated, a class that has passed down in college history as one of the most famous in its annals from the large number of men it contained who became eminent in various professions.

Mr. Arnold began his business life in the Bank of New England, now the National Bank of New England at Haddam, one of the oldest banks of the state. There he learned the rudiments of banking, a business he followed continuously thereafter. It was in 1856 that he came to Meriden to become cashier of the Meriden Bank, his brother, Joseph Arnold, having previously occupied the same position—and who had resigned in 1853 to accept the office of cashier of the bank in Derby, Conn. O. B. Arnold served as cashier until the death of Joel I. Butler in 1890, when he was chosen president, and he held the latter office continuously until the day of his death which occurred August 30, 1900.

The following extracts from the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the directors of the Meriden National Bank held a few days after his death show in what high regard he was held by his bank associates:

"After a considerable training in banking and financial affairs he (Owen B. Arnold) joined his fortunes with our bank forty-four years ago, and has remained in continuous service, until death following a lingering illness, severed our official relations.

"Knowing him as few did, we held him in the highest respect and esteem. His advice was frequently sought and much prized. He was careful, thorough and painstaking,



O. B. Cornell

scrupulously exact, ever affable and courteous, with a quiet dignity and charming refinement of manner.

"The worthy never appealed to him in vain, and his charity, public and private, at home and abroad, was unfailing and without display. He was a helpful, sympathizing friend, a loved companion, and a favorite wherever he lived. His library was carefully selected, and was always at the service of friends or callers.

"It is a matter of regret that no artist has preserved such work as might always call to our minds that tall, spare, courtly figure, that winning personality, that inspiring face, that kindly but searching eye, that impressive brow, and crowning all, that wealth of luxuriant hair.

"There are enterprises now flourishing which might have perished long ago, except for the courage which he infused and the support he imparted.

"His friendly advice and kindly word has more than once saved the young from ruin, and led them into a better and worthier life. He heartily supported all measures calculated to elevate, educate and improve mankind, but he received with caution any suggestion which involved a possible menace to financial, social or commercial integrity. He scrutinized every proposal which might lead to useless and burdensome expense, and tried to test all questions by the touchstone composed of truth, honor, justice and fair play.

"While to the unthinking his career may seem an entire success, he had in the twilight of his later life realized only too clearly the uncertainty of human plans, and his grief was the keener because he suffered for those whose interests were under his care, so that at last his troubled heart began to long the more for that rest and peace which can only be found in the companionship of Him who is infinitely tender and compassionate."

Besides the important part Mr. Arnold took in the successful management of the Meriden National Bank, he was from 1862 until his death one of the trustees and directors of the Meriden Savings Bank, of which institution he was also from 1870 one of its vice-presidents. Several local manufacturing enterprises were aided to success and encouraged both by his sound judgment and his means. He was one of the directors of Edward Miller & Co., and The Wilcox & White Organ Company. In the affairs of the town of Meriden he was always active, and although quiet and unpretending was a man whose influence invariably was exerted for the welfare of his fellow townsmen. He was kind, not only to relatives, but it was his delight to help the poor and unfortunate.

He was one of the founders of the Meriden Boys' Club, and contributed liberally towards its maintenance. He was for about twenty years one of the trustees of the Connecticut School for Boys. For several years and until his death he was president of the Curtis Home, and he was treasurer of St.

Andrew's parish for many years, with which church he was connected as one of the vestrymen for a great many years, although in his early life he was affiliated with the Congregational church.

Mr. Arnold's public career consisted of two terms in the legislature where he ably represented the town of Meriden, being first elected in 1861 and again in 1874.

Mr. Arnold amassed considerable land in and about Meriden and among his possessions was quite a tract on West Peak and in his will the extreme point of the Peak, consisting of about four acres, was left to the city of Meriden. It was his earnest hope that by some means this high point of land could be used in the same way that Mt. Tom in Massachusetts is used, as a pleasure resort for the people of Meriden and vicinity during the warm days of summer.

During his entire life he was a student, and as he advanced in age he found his greatest pleasure, outside of banking hours, with his books.

His acquaintance among men of letters was unusually large, while his generosity and charity were not fully known until after his death. In his will were provisions for many charitable objects, but so reserved a man was he that even his executor had no idea of the extent of his liberality until proven to him conclusively by the large number of calls from individuals and institutions that had previously been helped by Mr. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold was never married. One of his nieces, Katherine Arnold, daughter of Joseph Arnold, married in 1874, Charles H. Nettleton, of Derby, Conn., whom he appointed executor of his will.

The accompanying engraving of Mr. Arnold and the only one of him known to exist is from a photograph probably taken shortly after his removal to Meriden.

HENRY B. BEACH.

A loyal citizen of Meriden who has taken a part in the betterment of the town for over forty years, is Henry Burton Beach. He was born in New Milford, Litchfield County, Conn., March 17, 1831, and is a son of Burroughs Beach, a native of Oxford, Conn., who married Harriet M. daughter of Justice Weller of Bridgewater, Conn. His father was an exemplary Christian character and in his young manhood engaged in the manufacture of cabinet furniture at New Milford, and his factory grew to be the largest in that industry for several miles around. He was a man of strong personality and pronounced convictions, especially on the slavery question, and was one of the earliest advocates of the abolition of slavery. On this question he had the sympathy of but few residents of the town, among them was Augustine Thayer, father of Judge John Q. Thayer of Meriden. Another strong sympathizer was Daniel Platt, father of the late O. H. Platt who lived in the



Henry P. Beach

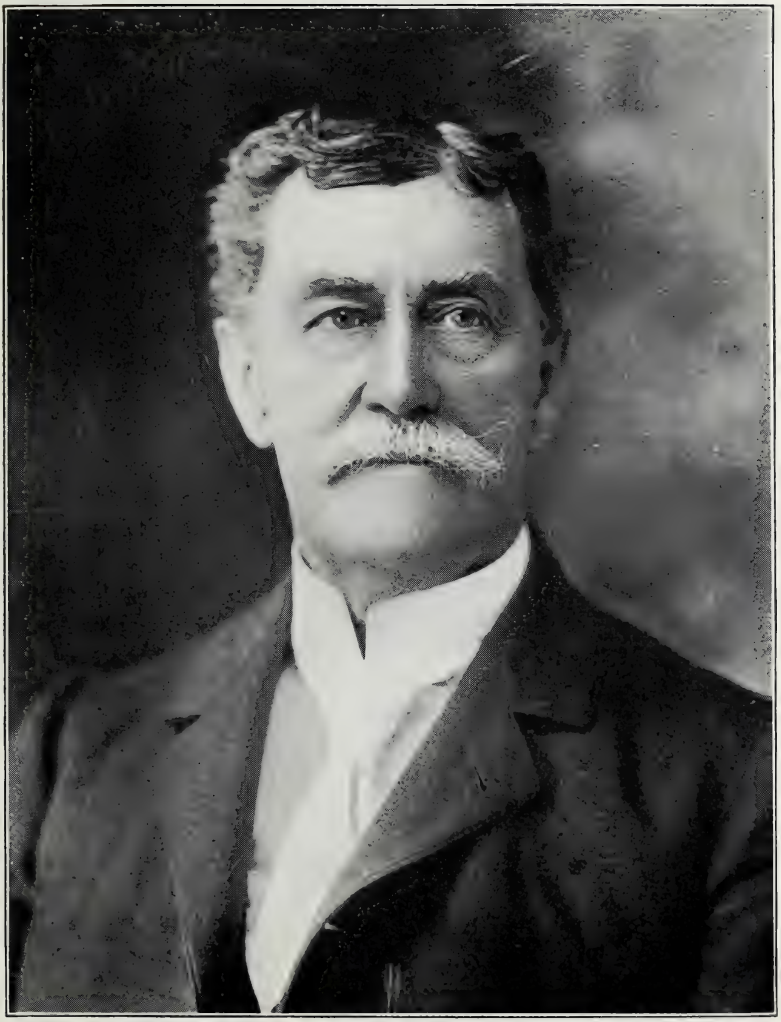
adjoining town of Washington. Burroughs Beach, who afterward became a resident and property owner of Meriden, where he died January 12, 1872, lived to see slavery abolished, very much to his satisfaction.

To his son, the subject of this sketch, he gave a good education, first at the common schools, later at private school in his native town, afterwards at the Methodist Seminary at Amenia, N. Y., concluding with an attendance at a select private school at New Milford. Henry B. Beach, after entering a dry goods store at New Milford as a boy, became a clerk and later owned a store of his own where he became engaged in the sale of general merchandise. In the early 50s he went frontiering, locating at Stillwater, Minn., where he became a leading factor in that town and vicinity and was heavily engaged in the lumber and milling business, and also in the droving of cattle and horses. Just previous to 1860 his parents removed to Meriden where they continued to reside until called to rest from earthly cares.

Henry B. Beach returned from Minnesota and settled permanently in Meriden about 1863 engaging in the chuck and drill business in a portion of the office of Lyon & Billard. After a year or more be began his long and successful career as a traveling salesman in the employ of what was then known as the Wilcox Britannia Co., but soon after as the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. Mr. Beach continued, with the exception of one year, in that capacity until 1905, and still retains his connection with the company Although he has now retired from the road, he is one of the best known traveling men of the trade, and has for over forty years been an important factor in the concern. He served as one of the directors from 1879 until the business became re-organized as a part of the International Silver Company in 1903. Mr. Beach is connected with the Masonic fraternity being affiliated with Meridian Lodge 77, A. F. & A. M., of Meriden and is also a member of the Council R. & S. M., of Bridgeport. He is a communicant of St. Andrew's Episcopal church. He was married September 5, 1850 to Charlotte, daughter of Sheldon and Jennette (Wooster) Leavenworth and to that union six children have been born: Joseph B., of Meriden; Julia B., married George B. Paddock, formerly of Meriden, of Jackson, Minn.; Harry Burroughs; Sheldon B.; Frederick, died in infancy; and E. W. Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are also blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JAMES COOK.

Nearly a half century of active residence and participation in the business affairs of Meriden made James Cook one of the best known citizens of the town. He was born in Higganum, Conn., April 26, 1835,



James Cook

where he obtained an education. Mr. Cook came to Meriden in 1858 where he resided continuously until his regretted decease. He was in every sense a self-made man and began his extensive business career by securing employment with Lyon & Billard where he remained for five years. He then became associated with Julius Pratt & Co.

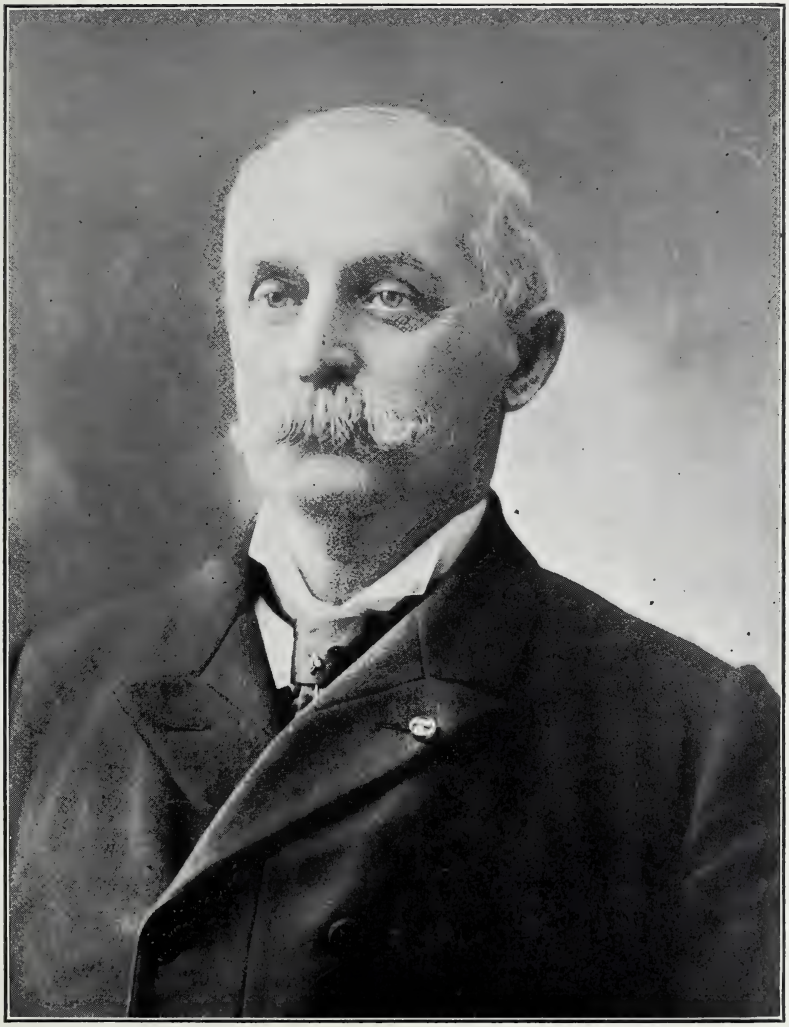
James Cook as a young man was industrious and thrifty and it was not long before he had saved enough from his earnings to engage in the livery business, the site of his stable being on Crown street in the rear of where the Cook block now stands, but which afterwards was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Cook was successful from his first business venture, but he started on a greater era of prosperity after he bought the square on East Main street, also bounded by South Colony street, Crown street and the tracks of the N. Y., N. H., & H. railroad. He had an eye to the improvement of the property and was ever known as a fair minded and liberal landlord.

With Joseph Morse he built the Morse & Cook block, one of the most substantial business structures of Meriden, located in the heart of the business section, and which has always proved to have been an excellent investment, and at the time of its construction was considered an important stroke of enterprise on the part of its owners. Among Mr. Cook's other property holdings were a partnership in the Curtiss & Cook block located on Main street, 186 feet of railroad frontage on South Colony street, the whole of the corner of East Main and Crown streets, the old Trading Company store on East Main street, and besides his own residence on Crown street he possessed several tenement houses and other property.

Mr. Cook was a man of good repute and one who was ever considered a worthy adopted citizen of the town. He took a deep interest in the affairs of the locality and no movement for the betterment of the town was ever known to be discouraged by him During the last few years of his life Mr. Cook did not enjoy customary good health but his indomitable energy and perseverance would not permit him to give up his business cares until he succumbed to a complication of diseases. He was much devoted to his home and his family and was affiliated with but one fraternal organization, Meridian Lodge, No. 77, A. F. & A. M.

He was married to Emma L. Fay who now survives him and to that union were born two children: a daughter who died in infancy and one son, Arthur E. Cook, who now fills the important place in the business world made vacant by the death of his father, which occurred June 10, 1903. Mr. Cook was also survived by a sister, Mrs. Joseph Hubbard of Middletown, and a brother, Henry Cook of Higganum.



John S Lane

JOHN SHERMAN LANE.

Meriden being a manufacturing city can boast of many able and progressive business men. One of the most prominent of these is John S. Lane. Although he did not become a resident of Meriden until 1894 he has so identified himself with the business and social life of the city as to be looked upon as a foremost citizen.

Mr. Lane is a native of Connecticut, having been born in Kent, November 27, 1839. His father was Hon. Daniel P. Lane and his mother a member of the well known Sherman family which has given to New England so many illustrious citizens. Daniel Lane fought in the War of 1812, and was a well known man about the state, having been a member of the State Assembly from Kent in 1840. He had five children of whom John Sherman was the second.

Mr. Lane attended the district school of his native town during the winter months and worked on the farm during the summer until he was thirteen years of age, when he served as clerk in a store for one yeear. At the age of eighteen he left the hillside home and went to Bridgeport to make his fortune. He found employment with the New York & New Haven Railroad Company as a track repairer. His ability soon earned for him a better position, that of foreman, and later he served the Housatonic road in the same capacity. During this time the double track was laid between New York and New Haven.

The western fever seized him about this time, and in 1859 he went to Chicago where he remained until 1861. Lincoln's call for "500,000 more" after the battle of Bull Run found John S. Lane ready and willing to answer to his country's call, and he came back to Connecticut and joined the Eighth Connecticut Volunteers, enlisting from New Milford September 14, 1861. He acquitted himself with gallantry in all the engagements of his regiment which included the following: Roanoke Island, Newbern, N. C., siege of Fort Macon, N. C., South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Va., Fort Huger, Va., Fort Darling, Va., Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Watthall Junction and Fort Harrison.

Mr. Lane left the army a first lieutenant October 14, 1864. On his return home he was appointed supervisor of the Housatonic Road, and in 1880 he accepted a similar position with the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Part of his work at this time was to attend to the stone-ballasting of the tracks, and he soon felt that there was a good opening in this section of the country for the business of furnishing crushed stone to the railroads. It was found upon investigation that the hills about Meriden furnished excellent material for this crushed stone, and in 1894 Mr. Lane moved to Meriden where the great industry of John S. Lane & Son was started and has ever since been growing to greater proportions. In



RESIDENCE OF JOHN S. LANE.

1893 a quarry was opened near Westfield, Mass., on the Boston & Albany Railroad where the same class of stone is found, and this has also been very successful. Mr. Lane, at this writing, is president of the following concerns: John S. Lane & Son, Incorp., Lane Construction Co., Incorp., Lane Quarry Co., and he is a shareholder in the Connecticut Trap Rock Quarries Incorp.

For some years he has devoted most of his time to his extensive properties in Eustis, Florida, where he owns large orange groves and a hotel.

On January 27, 1863, Mr. Lane was married to Miss Emma S. Plumb, and their children are as follows: Arthur S., Bertha, wife of W. R. Smith, E. Le Roy, Harry C., and Edna C., wife of Oliver Yale, formerly of Meriden, now of Brooklyn, N. Y. Arthur S., E. Le Roy and Harry are all engaged in the trap rock business.

HON. EDGAR J. DOOLITTLE.

Hon. Edgar J. Doolittle, for five terms mayor of Meriden and once representing the district in the State Senate, was born in Hebron, Conn., January 29, 1845. He is descended from Abraham Doolittle who came from England in 1640, and took a prominent part in the organization of the Town of Wallingford. His father was Rev. Edgar J. Doolittle, a native of New Haven, and a clergyman of the Congregational denomination. On the maternal side Mr. Doolittle is of the Sage family, David Sage, his early antecedent, coming to Middletown from Wales in 1652. One of his ancestors on his mother's side, Captain William Sage, who fought at the battle of Bunker Hill, was also one of the antecedents of Russell Sage, the noted financier of New York.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools in his native town, his father at that time being the settled pastor of the First church of that town. After obtaining a practical education, and a year after receiving his diploma from the Guilford Institute, he engaged in the paper box industry in Meriden, which from a modest beginning has been developed by him into one of the largest in the state. From the high character of the output of the factory (situated on Camp street and conveniently adjoining the tracks of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R.), the industry has for many years reflected great credit upon Meriden and given employment to a large number of hands, who find there both regular and remunerative employment. The goods made at the Doolittle factory comprise a great variety; and almost every description of paper boxes and cartons are produced there, a large portion of the output consisting of the finest goods lined with satin, silk and plush, and used extensively by the manufacturers of silverware and plated ware. The name of the factory over which Mr. Doolittle has continuously maintained a personal supervision and management, is a synonym for the best boxes for all uses in the trade.



Strict integrity and honesty of purpose in all his dealings have won the confidence and esteem of Mr. Doolittle's fellow townsmen, and he has many times been called to accept positions of honor and trust. He is at this writing vice president and trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank; director of the Meriden Gas and Electric Light companies; vice president and director of the Home National Bank; trustee of the Meriden Hospital, and in 1904 was appointed by the governor of the state a member of the Connecticut Commission to the St. Louis World's Fair Exposition, where his service to the commonwealth was marked with rare judgment and ability. During his terms as chief magistrate of the city of Meriden, his administration, which was concluded in 1887, was productive of many permanent improvements and conducted in the interests of all citizens and taxpayers.

While in the State Senate he won the esteem of his colleagues and constituents alike by his close attention to the proceedings of that worthy body and fearless prosecution of bills which embraced that which was right and wise.

In social life Mr. Doolittle is a prominent figure and universally esteemed and respected. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, St. Elmo Commandery, K. T., and a thirty-second degree member of the F. & A. M. He is also a member of the Mystic Shrine.

He was married November 13, 1867, to Martha W., daughter of George and Mary Warner (Couch), of Meriden, who died August 21, 1902. He has one daughter, Dorothy.

HON. BENJAMIN PAGE.

Hon. Benjamin Page, mayor of Meriden in 1890 and 1891, was born in North Branford, a son of Benjamin and Sarah E. (Merriam) Page, September 4, 1840. He comes of English ancestry. Both his father and grandfather were farmers whose names were Benjamin and they took a most active part in the affairs of their native town.

Inheriting a love of learning and a desire for knowledge, young Benjamin by close application to his school books, fitted himself to become a teacher at the age of seventeen; and after an attendance at the State Normal school began his career in that capacity, his first school being at Wallingford. He continued with like success as a teacher at East Haven and in his native town of North Branford, afterwards becoming principal of the school at South Meriden, which position he held for four years. In 1865 and while still a teacher, he established the insurance agency which in 1892 became Page & Pardee, of Meriden, and for some years past has been known as one of the largest and most reliable in the state.

A man of acknowledged judgment and with a conscientious regard for the rights of others, he has been chosen to settle many important estates, and in that capacity has proven him-



Benj' Page

self a valued friend to many bereaved families. His broadness of mind, wide experience and knowledge of men and affairs have made him a man much sought for advice; and he has achieved a success in business life that can only be attained by much executive ability and the practice of methods of strict integrity.

Mr. Page has had an extended and honorable public career. Shortly after obtaining his majority he became an active and interested worker in the ranks of the Republican party of which he has ever been a loyal and able supporter. He was first elected to office in 1883 when he was chosen a member of the Board of Aldermen from the Third Ward. His re-election was but a fitting tribute to his valued service and during the last two of the four years he was a member of the upper branch of the city government, he was made president pro tem. His nomination and election as mayor in 1889 were the results of his popularity and general fitness for the honor; and upon assuming the duties of the office he became the chief magistrate of the city in fact as well as in name. His first term won him a spontaneous re-election and the executive ability and display of wisdom during his second term was but a continuation of his first. Although a third time honored with a nomination by his party he declined to serve another term as mayor but in 1894 accepted the call to take a seat in the state Legislature. He was made clerk of the Committee on Insurance, in which capacity he was admirably qualified to serve and at the close of the session had made a record satisfactory to his constituents.

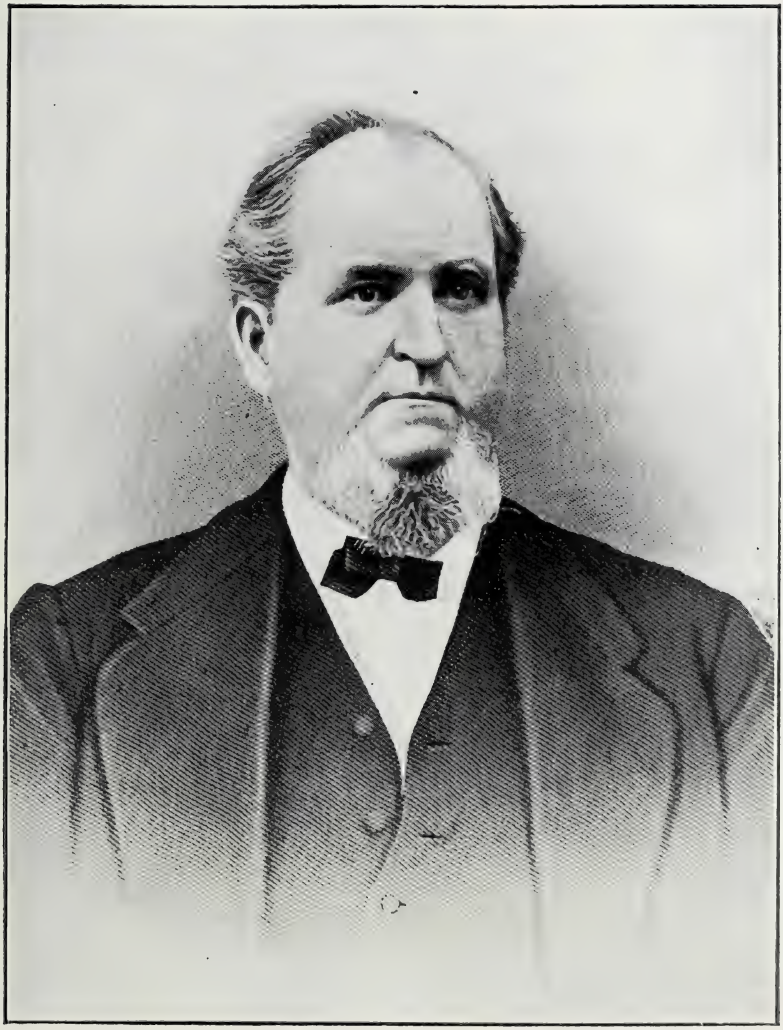
Mr. Page was collector of taxes for the Town and City of Meriden for a period of ten years and during his service in that office handled the public funds in a manner most satisfactory to the people. His appointment as a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners by Mayor Seeley in 1902 was met with expressions of warm approval from both the public and press.

Mr. Page is a director of the Meriden Savings and Meriden National Bank; president of the board of trustees of the Curtis Home and one of the directors of the Middlesex Mutual Assurance Company of Middletown. He is prominent in church and social life and is one of the wardens and vestrymen of St. Andrew's Episcopal church. He is also a member of Meridian Lodge, F. & A. M., and Pacific Lodge, I. O. O. F.

He was married in 1864 at North Branford to Miss Margaret A. Cook, daughter of Leverett and Thankful (Stevens) Cook, of Wallingford, to whom one daughter, Mrs. Frederick W. Kilbourne, of Springfield, Mass., was born.

WILLIAM W. LYMAN.

The late William Worcester Lyman, one of the foremost citizens of Meriden from 1836 to the time of his regretted decease, November 15, 1891, was born at Woodford, Vermont,



W. H. Lyman

March 29, 1821. He was the son of Andrew and Anna (Hall) Lyman. When he was but seven years old his father died, and with his mother he removed to Northford, Conn. In 1836 he came to Meriden and served his apprenticeship in the shop of Griswold & Couch, britannia ware manufacturers, where he remained for a period of five years. With a determination to make his mark in life, in 1844 he embarked in business on his own account, which he was enabled to do by the practice of strict economy for some years previous. With a practical knowledge of his business he engaged in the manufacture of britannia spoons, taking with him as partner Ira Couch. A short time later he purchased his partner's interest and continued in the same factory, which was near his late residence in Meriden, for the following two years. He then removed his enterprise to the Twiss factory in Prattsville, which offered larger and more suitable quarters, and took as partner Lemuel J. Curtis. This partnership was afterwards dissolved and Mr. Lyman took possession of the old Frary shop which at that time stood near the works of the present Meriden Firearms Company. He continued in the manufacture of spoons until 1858 when he patented the "Lyman Fruit Jar," which was well received by the trade from its highly desirable qualities and practical usefulness for the canning of fruits. The jar was the first of its kind put upon the market and afterwards became in great demand in fruit growing communities. While his patent of the fruit jar in itself gave him a competency and enabled him to leave his family well provided for, he also patented an ice pitcher, a copper-bottomed tea pot, a butter dish and several other articles.

Mr. Lyman was possessed of rare business attainments, and was a citizen of enterprise and public spirit. For many years and until the time of his death he was one of the directors of the Meriden Britannia Company. He was also until 1878 president of the Meriden Cutlery Company, of which concern he afterwards and until his decease continued as one of the directors. He was also one of the prime movers of the street railway and a director in the Meriden Horse Railway Co. He was a director of the Meriden National and also in the City Savings Bank, and was the first president of the old Meriden Flint Glass Co.

Mr. Lyman was a man who could be counted upon at all times to do his duty toward his fellow citizens, and several terms served the town of Meriden in the state Legislature, his service comprising the years 1849, 1881 and 1882. He also served as a member of the Common Council from the Fifth ward.

He was married in 1844 to Roxanna G. Frary, daughter of James Frary, a leading dry goods dealer of his day, and is now survived by one daughter, Mrs. Henry Warren (formerly Miss Josephine Griswold Lyman) who resides on Britannia street with her husband and daughter.

THE LATE ELI C. BIRDSEY.

One of the noted citizens of Meriden in his time was the late Eli C. Birdsey, known as Squire Birdsey, merchant, public official and churchman, who during his life stood high in the estimation of his fellow townsmen. He was born in Meriden December 21, 1799, and was the oldest son of Deacon Gershom and Lucy P. Birdsey. After an eventful life of usefulness he passed away October 9, 1843. He received his education in the schools of Meriden, and when a very young man engaged in business at the corner of East Main and Broad streets, but after having had a practical experience previously in manufacturing, purchased the brick building now demolished, previously occupied by Potter, Shipman & Lewis, the site of which is near the present stately residence now occupied by his son, Eli C. Birdsey.

Squire Birdsey was known as the leading merchant of his day, and over his counters was sold nearly everything in the way of merchandise to be procured at that time except groceries. The store and the strong personality of its proprietor attracted the leading men of Meriden who for years congregated there, especially in the winter time, and many matters of public interest were there discussed, Squire Birdsey usually taking the leading part. That he held the entire confidence of the community seems also to be proven by the fact that he kept the savings of many of his friends and acted as banker before the establishment of local banks, and he was known to be the only possessor of an iron safe for some years in Meriden. He was a natural born leader of men and his judgment and foresight were much relied upon. Although by no means stubborn or arbitrary he had a quiet faculty of leading others to his way of thinking rather than being one who changed his mind easily without just cause. Early in life he identified himself with the Baptist Church, of which he was an active member, and of this society he was for some years treasurer, and permanently identified with its growth and prosperity during his life. He was first selectman in 1833 and clerk of the town of Meriden continuously from 1834 to 1843, and served the town in the Legislature in 1834 and 1835. He was a man who never shirked his duty, and ever had in mind the Golden Rule and the just dues of his friends and neighbors. Squire Birdsey was of a genial, kindly and benevolent disposition, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

He was married June 3, 1824, to Rebecca Cook Wilcox and three children blessed the union: Linus, born April 13, 1825, married first Vincey Ann Miller, second Julia Davis, and now residing in Meriden; Alina, born Sept. 25, 1826, married John Ives, of Meriden, and died March 13, 1855; Eli Coe Birdsey, now a leading resident and business man of Meriden, born February 25, 1843. Squire Birdsey was buried in the family lot at the East Cemetery.



Eli C. Birdsey



Eli C. Bridey

ELI COE BIRDSEY.

A life-long identification with Meriden, following that of his father, whose full name he bears, has made the name of Eli C. Birdsey one most familiar to both present and past residents of the town. He was born in Meriden February 25, 1843, and still resides in the stately Colonial mansion built in 1830, at the corner of Broad and East Main streets, and which from its prominent location and pleasing style of architecture has been for many years one of the most conspicuous landmarks of the town. His father, of whom a biographical sketch is given elsewhere, died when Eli was an infant and he was trained early to paths of rectitude by his mother. He attended the schools of Meriden and later took a course at Pierce Academy at Middleboro, Mass. He began his business career as a clerk in his brother's general store but at the end of four years engaged in business in the hardware line for himself, taking as a partner the late Wallace A. Miles, one of the past mayors of the city. Adhering to the same location and since having as partners the late Frank S. Foster and his present partner, John F. Raven, Mr. Birdsey has become known as one of the most reliable and enterprising merchants of the locality and the large trade the firm of Birdsey & Raven enjoys is the result of a long and uninterrupted period of a carefully conducted business during which the confidence of the buying public has been justly merited. In matters of public interest concerning the town and state Mr. Birdsey has shown a conscientious regard. During its existence he was secretary of the Meriden Merchants' Association, and upon the organization of the Meriden Board of Trade he became a director and was its first secretary. Since its organization he has also been vice president of the Connecticut State Board of Trade.

Mr. Birdsey has always taken much interest in historical research and is considered an authority on many subjects relating to the past. He is a valued member of the Hartford Historical Society and one of the state managers of the Sons of the American Revolution, a society to which he is in several directions eligible owing to his distinguished ancestry. In his political affiliations Mr. Birdsey is a Republican and while he has ever been willing to further the political ambitions of his friends has never sought nor accepted any public office.

His prominent connection with the Masonic order dates back many years and brings no little distinction to Meriden. A thirty-third degree member of that order, he entered the blue lodge (Meridian) as far back as 1864 and since has devoted much time to the work in the various branches of the order, being, at the present writing, one of the best known members in the country. He was a charter member of Center Lodge, of which he has also been secretary, junior and senior wardens and treasurer at different times; he has also held several

offices of honor and trust in Keystone Chapter, R. A. M.; and was one of the organizers and the first generalissimo of St. Elmo Commandery, of which he is also a past eminent commander. He has further been honored with the offices of grand warden and grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut and since 1894 has continuously been elected grand recorder of the Grand Commandery in this state. In addition, he is, at this writing, secretary and treasurer of both the Connecticut and New England associations of past grand commanders of K. T. and is the grand representative of the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia near the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. Mr. Birdsey is grand treasurer of the Council of Deliberation of the A. A. S. R.

That he should be known among members as one of the best authorities in the state on Masonic law, methods, legislation and discipline and that the work of his pen has ever been appreciated to the fullest extent by his brother members in the various branches of the order are facts conceded by all familiar with his honorable record and standing as a Mason.

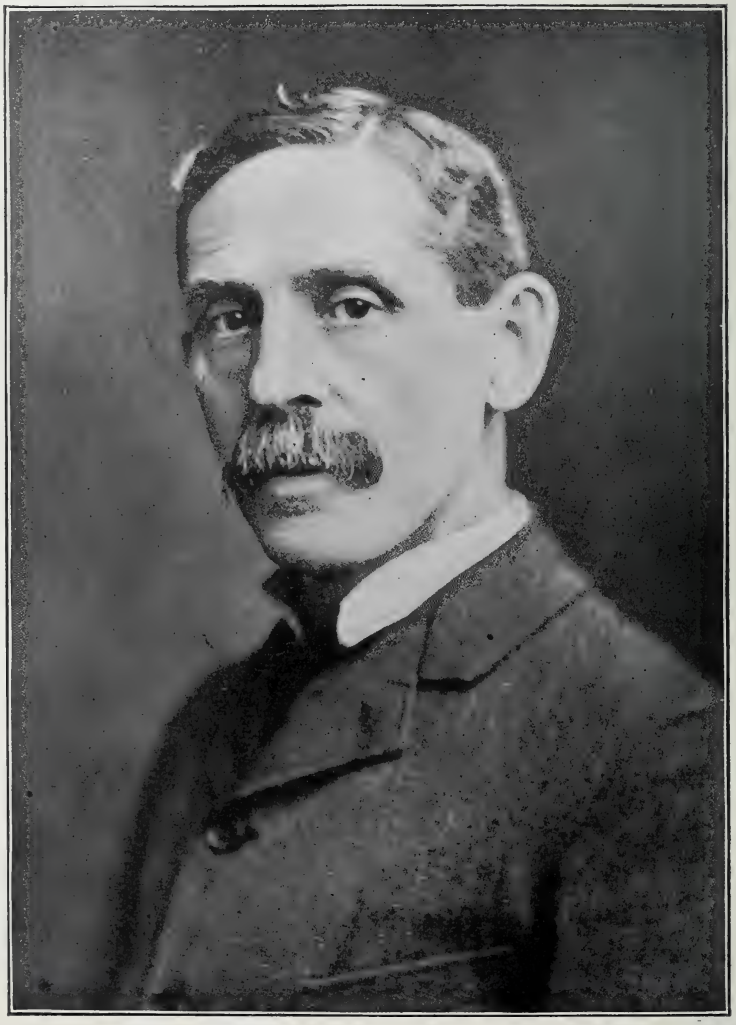
As a resident of Meriden he is highly esteemed in the community and deserves that regard which is accorded men in any community only when they have won it by good citizen and fellowship. Mr. Birdsey was married in 1864 to Miss Catherine Butler, a daughter of Lyman and Mary Anne (Clark) Butler, and has no children.

HON. GEORGE S. SEELEY.

Hon. George S. Seeley, mayor of Meriden in 1902-3-4 and 5, like several of his antecedents, was born in Waterbury. He first saw light February 2, 1846. His ancestors on the paternal and maternal sides comprised old Connecticut stock. His great-grandfather was one of the patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War and his grandfather, Roger Pritchard, saw active service as a continental soldier in the War of 1812.

The subject of this sketch and his mother were born at the old Pritchard homestead, and he received his education by attending the public schools of Waterbury and Meriden. When he was 12 years old, his parents removed to Meriden, his father purchasing the farm at East Meriden, now owned by Edwin Birdsey, where for some years he continued in agricultural pursuits, later engaging in business as a stone mason.

At the age of 19 George S. Seeley began to learn his trade and after serving his apprenticeship pursued the calling of a metal turner with marked perseverance and industry for twenty-five years. For the past eleven years he has devoted his energies to the handling of real estate. His wide knowledge of public affairs has been gained by practical experience acquired by his repeated election to town and city offices. Affiliated closely with the Republican party, Mr. Seeley, although a strong organizer, has never been classed a politi-



Geo S Sperry

cian in the generally accepted sense of the term, and his public record and private life have ever been above reproach. He served creditably as a member of the Common Council and later of the Board of Aldermen from the third ward and in 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901 as second selectman and several years as chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

After the city had gone Democratic two municipal elections, the Republicans of Meriden chose Mr. Seeley for their standard bearer and his election was a high personal tribute to his popularity.

Subsequent to his election it was proven that the people of the city had made no mistake, for both his terms as mayor were marked by wise appointments and an administration of public affairs which reflected credit upon the city as well as its mayor; for the city's business was conducted in the interest of the taxpayer and property owner. During his four years as mayor he was accredited a most loyal support from the various commissions of his appointment and his management of the city's finances was most pleasing and gratifying to the citizens. Mr. Seeley is a prominent Odd Fellow, and since 1888 has served that fraternity as treasurer of Meriden Center Lodge, of which lodge he is also a past grand. He is a member of the Arcanum Club; one of the vestrymen of St. Andrew's Episcopal church of Meriden, of which parish he has also been treasurer since 1900; he is also a member and a director of the Meriden Board of Trade; member of the Meriden Business Men's Association, and as a member of the General Committee has shown an active interest in the Centennial celebration.

November 24, 1867, he was united in marriage with Anna G., daughter of Melvin C. and Esther (Guy) Lee, of Meriden, and three children have blessed the union; Frank Guy, who now resides with his wife and two children in Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; Mrs. James H. Guernsey, of Ansonia, and Arthur D. Seeley, a promising young man in his seventeenth year.

GEORGE REDFIELD CURTIS.

The subject of this sketch, George Redfield Curtis, was a descendant of John Curtis, who, with his mother, Elizabeth, and his brother, William, was among the first settlers of Stratford, Conn., in the year 1639. His line of descent is as follows: Widow Elizabeth, John, Thomas (who settled in Wallingford, Conn., in 1670, as an original planter), Nathaniel, Benjamin, Benjamin, Asahel. In 1670 the territory now comprised in Meriden was a part of Wallingford, and so for over two hundred years this branch of the Curtis family have lived practically in the same locality. George Redfield Curtis was the youngest child of Asahel Curtis and his wife, Mehitabel Redfield, of Clinton, Conn., through whom he was a lineal descendant of John Alden, of "Mayflower" fame. He was born in

Meriden, Conn., on Christmas Day, December 25, 1825, and received his education principally in the schools of that place. He left school at the age of eighteen, and took a position in a dry goods store in Middletown, Conn., where he remained four years. In 1847 he went to Rochester, N. Y., and for one year taught school in a town near that city. During the year 1848 he taught school in Meriden. In 1849 he became bookkeeper for Julius Pratt & Co., of Meriden and continued with them until October, 1850, when he became teller of the Meriden Bank. On January 7, 1853, the month following its organization, he began work with the Meriden Britannia Company. The following April he was elected its treasurer, which position he held until his death; he was also for some time its secretary. For many years his life was bound up in the increasing interests of that company and his labor and care contributed largely to the prosperity of the corporation. He was an ideal business man and the financial affairs of the company were admirably conducted under his personal direction for many years, until advancing age and many outside interests made him gradually withdraw from their administration. He was always interested in whatever increased the prosperity of his native town, and his connection with the financial and manufacturing concerns of Meriden is indicated by the following list of offices held by him: He was treasurer of the Meriden Britannia Company, president of the Meriden Silver Plate Company, Meriden Horse Railroad Company and Meriden Gas Light Company; director in the Wilcox Silver Plate Company, Chapman Manufacturing Company, Manning, Bowman & Company, Home National Bank, Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company, R. Wallace & Sons Manufacturing Company of Wallingford, Rogers & Brother of Waterbury, and William Rogers Manufacturing Company of Hartford. He was trustee in the Meriden Savings Bank and the Curtis Home for Orphans and Old Ladies. Mr. Curtis married May 22, 1855, Augusta Munson, youngest child of Jesse and Sophia (Talmadge) Munson, of Bradford, in western New York. Of this marriage were born three children—George Munson, Frederick Edgar (who died in childhood), and Agnes Deshon.

Mr. Curtis was a Republican in politics but he was never a politican, although he served his city as councilman and alderman, and finally as mayor during two terms, from 1879 to 1881. Of the social, domestic and religious characteristics of Mr. Curtis, it is difficult to speak truthfully and justly without seeming over-eulogistic. Intellectual in his tastes and widely read in general and historical literature, he was a most genial and responsive companion and acquaintance. As a husband and father, he was most loving and indulgent; as a son, most filial in his devotion to his mother, whose life almost reached a century of years. His religion seemed to be in-



Geo. R. Curtis

nate. An elderly person who had known him from childhood says of him: "The peace of his natal Christmas-tide seemed to have influenced his mind and character." His interest in St. Andrew's Episcopal church in Meriden and in the church at large was very strong. For years he represented his parish at the diocesan conventions, and in 1892 he was a delegate from Connecticut to the general convention of the Protestant Episcopal church held at Baltimore. For about forty-five years he was an officer of St. Andrew's parish, and for many of them either senior or junior warden. As the years went on and his means enlarged, he gave to his beloved church munificently. In 1891 his sister, Mrs. Hallam, died and left the bulk of her property to build a church in a new parish in Meriden, as a memorial to her husband. Mr. Curtis supplemented this gift largely, and two days before his death added to his generosity by presenting to the new parish a house and lot for a rectory. Mr. Curtis first became seriously ill at the time of the convention in Baltimore. A trip south in the early spring of 1893 failed to materially benefit him and he died suddenly May 20, 1893, at his home in Meriden, aged sixty-seven years.

GEORGE MUNSON CURTIS.

George Munson Curtis, treasurer of the International Silver Company and one of the most valued citizens and active men of affairs of Meriden, is a son and the only living child of Hon. George Redfield, and Augusta (Munson) Curtis. He is a worthy representative of the eighth generation of one of the oldest families of Connecticut. His paternal ancestor, John Curtis, came to this country from England, settling in Stratford, Connecticut, in 1639, and since 1670, when Thomas Curtis, son of John, located in Wallingford, the family have been prominent in the affairs of this immediate vicinity. The subject is also descended in the eighth generation from William Redfield, one of the earliest English settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony,, and on the maternal side of the ninth generation from Thomas Munson, a pioneer of Hartford and New Haven.

George M. Curtis attended the public schools of Meriden, military school of Cheshire and Trinity college, Hartford, with the class of 1880. He entered business life as a clerk in the office of the Meriden Britannia Company immediately after leaving college; and of this company he was elected assistant treasurer five years later. Upon the death of his father he was chosen treasurer of the concern which office he held until the Meriden Britannia Company was merged into the International Silver Company in 1898 when he became its first assistant treasurer. Two years later he was elected treasurer of the company which office he has since held. In addition to the responsible duties of that important position he serves as a director of the Interna-



Geo. M. Curtis

tional Silver Company, Home National Bank, Meriden Savings Bank, Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company and Meriden Gas Light Company. He is also secretary of the Curtis Home of Meriden; treasurer of the New Haven Anti-Tuberculosis Assotion which maintains a most humane sanatorium at Wallingford, and treasturer and one of the directors of the Curtis Memorial Library. The last named institution, a handsome and costly marble structure, was presented to the Town of Meriden by his mother and built solely under his personal supervision. He is also chairman of the committee to select the books of the library.

Mr. Curtis has always been a great lover of literature and is also one of the best authorities on historic matters. He is a member of the Connecticut Historical Society, of Hartford; New Haven Colony Historical Society and American Historical Association. Through his love for diligent historical research he has contributed much, not only to the societies of which he is a member, but to his native town. The early historical section of this book is from his versatile pen in which his accuracy of research is made fully manifest.

When the citizens of Meriden began to plan for the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town Mr. Curtis was their most happy choice for chairman of the general committee; and his efforts in behalf of the celebration have been productive of the most pleasing results.

Mr. Curtis in his religious affiliations is associated with St. Andrew's Episcopal church, of which he is junior warden. He is also secretary and treasurer of John Couch Branch, Sons of the American Revolution, and one of the most influential figures of the Home Club, of which he was one of the charter members.

He married November 30, 1886, Sophie Phillips, only daughter of the late Thomas Trowbridge Mansfield, of this city. They have one child, Agnes Mansfield Curtis, born September 6, 1887.

CHARLES PARKER.

The name of Charles Parker is not only indissolubly connected with that of Meriden but is properly recognized throughout the country as that of one who during his long and useful life was a leader in the manufacturing world.

He was the founder of the Charles Parker company, the first mayor of the city of Meriden, and lived to the extraordinary age of 93 years. He was born in Cheshire, January 2, 1809, and was the son of Stephen and Rebecca Parker. He was descended in the sixth generation from William Parker, who in 1636, was one of the proprietors of Hartford, but who afterwards removed with his wife, Margery, to Saybrook.

Their son, John, was one of the early settlers of Wallingford, a portion of which is now called Meriden,

and the Parker farm was first operated by him.

Edward Parker, son of John, born in 1692; Joel Parker, son of John and Jerusha, born in 1723; and Stephen Parker comprise his paternal ancestors. Stephen Parker, son of Joel and the father of Charles Parker, a soldier in the Revolutionary army, was born Aug. 8, 1759, and was twice married, first in 1787, to Sallie, daughter of Joseph Twiss, and second to Mrs. Rebecca Stone, daughter of Joshua Ray, who died in Meriden July 1, 1846.

Charles Parker was the second son born to the second marriage and like many boys of that period began his battle of life early. At nine years of age he was placed on a farm owned by Porter Cook with whom he lived until fourteen years of age. He did the chores and attended the village school and made himself generally useful to his employer.

His first insight into manufacturing was at the shop of Anson Matthews in Southington, which he entered in 1827, where he went to work casting pewter buttons, his wages being but $6 a week. Although a poor boy he was full of ambition, good health and a strong determination to succeed. Even though he received but a pittance for his hard and conscientious labor, with the practice of self-denial and strict economy he saved the sum of $70.

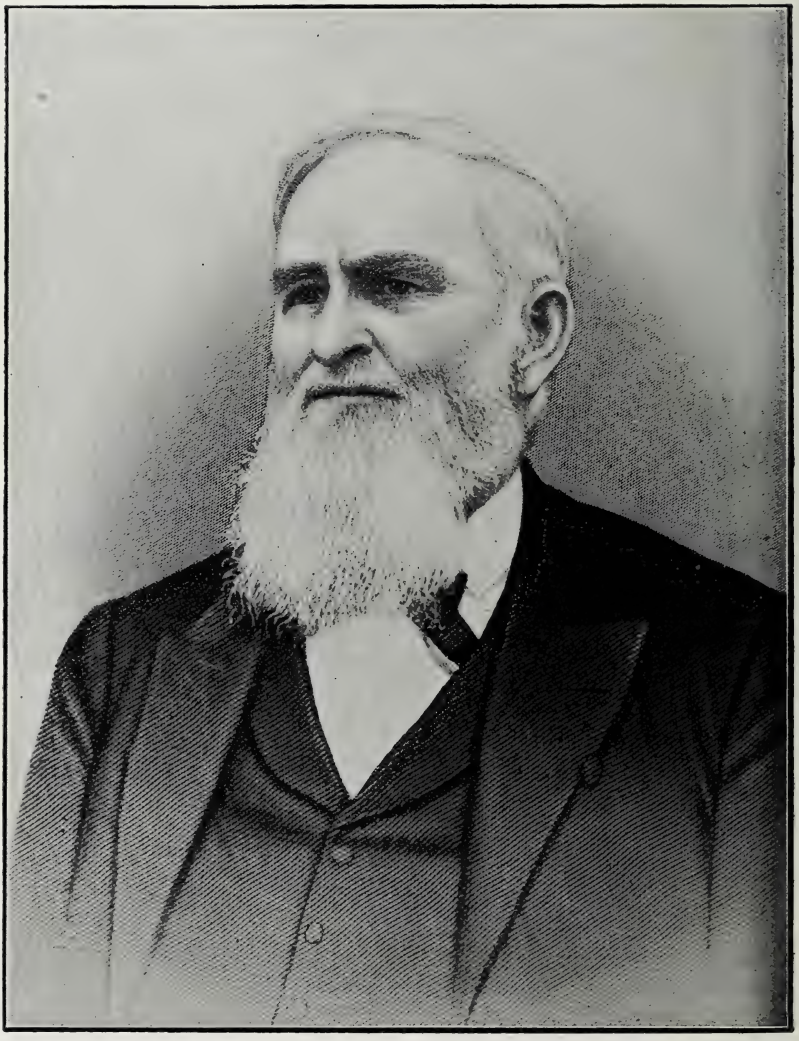
After remaining in the Southington Button shop for a year and later being employed by Horace and Harry Smith in Naugatuck, in August, 1828, he came to Meriden and went to work for Patrick Lewis.

His first manufacturing venture was making coffee mills on a contract; and during the next thirteen months by good management and close application he cleared $1,800, a large portion of which he was able to save. He then took in as a partner Jared Lewis and assumed another and larger contract from Lewis & Holt, manufacturing coffee mills, ladles and skimmers.

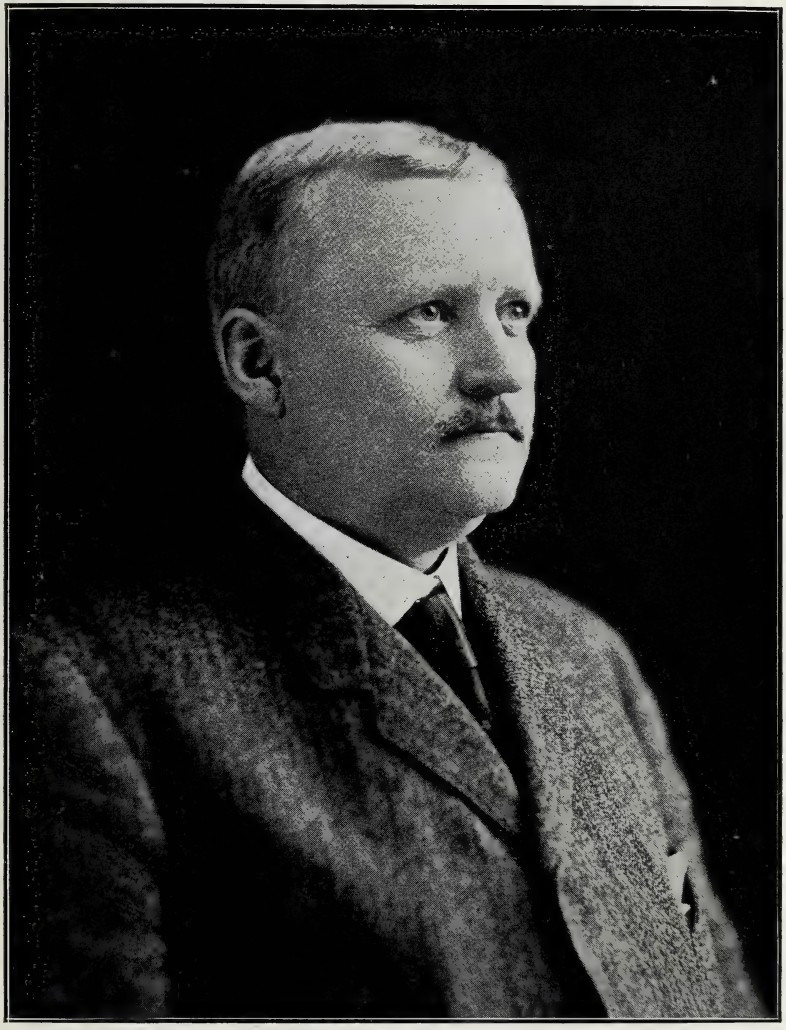
In 1831 he sold out to Jared Lewis and purchased an acre of land upon which was situated an old brown house for which he paid $650. On this land he built a stone shop which was finished in the spring of 1832, in which he manufactured coffee mills and waffle irons and from which sprung the several plants of the Charles Parker Company of the present day, the interesting history of which is given elsewhere in this volume. He later took in as partners his brother, Edmund Parker, and Heman White.

That he was a pioneer in the manufacture of hardware in this country and that he was the first man to introduce steam power in Meriden are matters of record. That he also overcame, it would seem almost miraculously, obstacles which would have put a stop to the operations of any ordinary man, is shown several times during his remarkable business career.

The panic of 1837 affected him temporarily but he rallied quickly and



Chas. Parker



Dexter W Parker.

within five years he had repaid to his creditors every penny of his indebtedness including the interest. That Mr. Parker knew his own business capacity and never undertook that which he could not accomplish himself alone, seems also to be proven by the fact that his great success seems to date from 1845 when he dissolved the partnership then existing with his brother and Mr. White. Mr. Parker was a man who relied entirely upon his own judgment and, possessing remarkable foresight and almost bulldog tenacity, having once decided upon a course of action, always sanguine of ultimate success, he was never dissuaded from his purpose either by seeming adversity or the well intended advice of his friends.

His business grew year by year to mammoth proportions. The great diversity of product of the several scattered factories, called for a display of his remarkable ability as a financier, yet it is stated that there never was a time during his whole business career that he could not tell how he stood.

The evolution of his business life from an apprentice boy to a captain of industry, according to one of his biographers, would be "the story of the growth of a small inland Connecticut town possessing a few local advantages developing in a comparatively few years into a thriving and prosperous city, prominent among the residents of which he was a prince among his equals."

About twenty years before his death he was stricken with an illness which affected his strong physique but not his unusual mental attainments and which confined him much of the time to his home. Notwithstanding this he continued to direct his several large enterprises and up to the very last of his long and useful life his counsel was that which decided the more important matters of the company. Few men, indeed, have made such a record for a continued business service for the benefit of the town, and no man's business credit in the history of Meriden was rated higher than that of Charles Parker.

As a resident of Meriden Mr. Parker was naturally a foremost citizen. He took an active interest in all public affairs both locally and otherwise. In his early life he was a Democrat and after the Civil war broke out he showed his loyalty to the Union by helping to equip companies of militia in response to President Lincoln's call for troops, and thereafter identified himself permanently with the Republican party of which he became a staunch supporter and, although one of the presidential electors who voted for Franklin Pierce, he became an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and was a delegate at both the conventions in Chicago and Philadelphia where General Grant received respectively his first and second nominations for President.

When Meriden received its city charter in 1867 Mr. Parker was shown the confidence and esteem of the people by being chosen the first



RESIDENCE OF DEXTER W. PARKER.

mayor. During his administration he conducted the affairs of the then infant city not only wisely but with as much care as he did his own private business.

As a result Meriden as a city established a remarkable precedent, which its citizens look back upon with pride.

Mr. Parker was a member of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and held the distinction of being the last surviving charter member of that Masonic lodge. He was also a member of St. Elmo Commandery to the members of which before his death he presented a beautiful banner in memory of his brother, Rev. John Parker, his son, Wilbur Parker, and his nephew, George White Parker, all of whom were active members of that high branch of the order.

He was a true member of the Sons of the American Revolution from 1893. From early manhood until his regretted decease he was a devoted and influential member of the First Methodist church to which society at one time he gave the princely sum of $40,000 towards building the present handsome edifice. He also gave to the city of Meriden eight acres of land now contained in the beautiful public breathing place known as Hubbard Park.

His late residence on Broad street, an illustration of which is presented, is still one of the grandest in Meriden, and since his death has been occupied by his son, Dexter W. Parker.

Mr. Charles Parker was married in 1831 to Abi Lewis Eddy and to that union ten children were born, of whom Dexter W. Parker is now the only one surviving.

DEXTER W. PARKER.

Dexter Wright Parker, president of the large manufacturing corporation known as the Charles Parker Company, is the only living son of the late Charles and Abi Lewis (Eddy) Parker. He was born at the corner of Main and High streets, Meriden, November 23, 1849, and received his early education at Russell's Collegiate and Commercial School. This was supplemented by an attendance at the government military academy at West Point, the appointment as a cadet to which came to him through Congressman Warner, of Middletown.

He graduated from West Point in 1870 and, with the commissioned rank of second lieutenant, saw active service with the Sixth U. S. Cavalry on the frontier of Texas, Indian Territory and Kansas.

After a creditable service in the regular army he returned to Meriden and began his extended business career as his father's partner. In 1878, when the firm was merged into a corporation, he became one of the officers and gradually his father came to rely more and more upon him until in his old age the entire management of the large business finally devolved upon him and his brother, Charles E. Parker.

Ill realth finally compelled him to take an extended rest, which was continued until after his brother's death when W. H. Lyon assumed the management of the business and the subject of this sketch became treasurer of the company. This office he held until the death of his father in 1902, whom he naturally succeeded as president of the company.

Mr. Parker resides in the imposing Parker homestead on Broad street and is held in high regard in the community. His prominence in the manufacturing world makes him one of the prime factors of the welfare of Meriden and his concern in the progress of his native town has ever been conclusively shown.

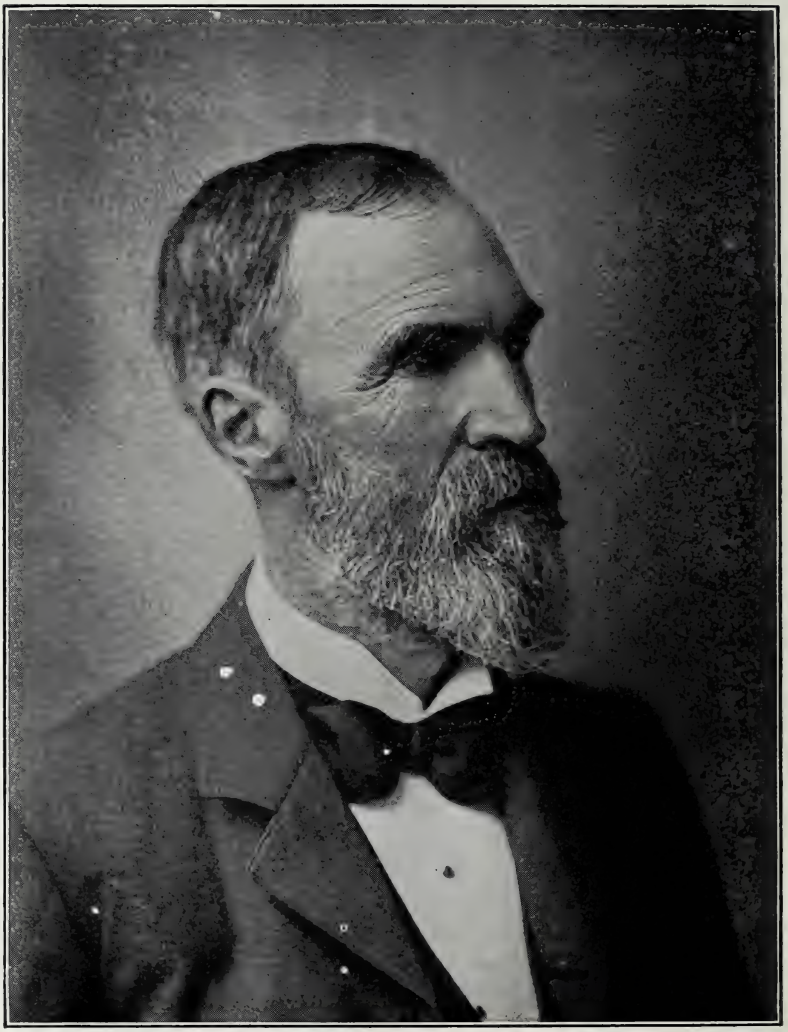
In addition to filling the important office of president of the Charles Parker Company he is one of the directors of the City Savings Bank and formerly was one of the directors of the First National Bank. He is also a member of the Home Club.

ANDREW J. COE.

Andrew J. Coe, the first judge of the Municipal Court of Meriden, was born in this town September 15, 1834. He was a son of Calvin and Harriet (Rice) Coe and the sixth of a family of nine children who reached maturity. He died February 25, 1897, after a life fully identified with Meriden's welfare, and his death was a personal loss to an unlimited circle of intimate friends. Born on the Coe farm, which was always his home, he first left it for a college course and graduated from Wesleyan University with honors in the class of 1855. Deciding to establish himself in the west, he commenced the study of law in Iowa, but being unable to endure the malarial climate there, he returned to Meriden, and completed his law studies in the office of the late Col. Dexter R. Wright, being admitted to the New Haven county bar in 1858. Another effort to locate in the west was frustrated by a long illness from which he never quite regained his early vigor. After three years of progressive law practice in New York, Mr. Coe returned to the farm which he carried on for some years but spending most of his winters in the south.

He became the sole owner of the Coe property in 1873, having bought out the interests of his brothers, Henry and Winfield. It was Judge Coe who conceived the building of the famous Coe "Castle." This and the old Calvin Coe homestead, is described elsewhere in these pages.

In 1860 Judge Coe was elected representative to the legislature and served on the judiciary committee. Again elected, in 1867, by the Republican party, although himself a Democrat, he was made chairman of the finance committee. During his service in the state legislature, he was appointed to adjust the court house contest between the towns of Danbury and Bridgeport, and also served as chairman, the same year, of the special committee that examined the ac-



A. J. Coe



Kate Foote Coe

counts of the state treasurer. When the Meriden Municipal Court was established, by the unanimous nomination of the citizens, he was appointed the first judge. This office he resigned in 1869 to engage in the fertilizer business and assumed the charge of the Southern Department of the Bradley Fertilizer Company, with headquarters at Charleston, S. C., where he remained for sixteen years. He was also one of the founders of the Dryer Company of Cleveland, Ohio, also manufacturers of fertilizers. Judge Coe was descended from a long line of ancestors famous for patriotism, integrity and independence of thought and action. A lifelong friends says, "He inherited in marked degree characteristics that gave him a strong and uncompromising individuality. Of rare intellectual tastes, he found time for a vast amount of study and research. Broad and liberal in his views, his convictions, always strong and the result of serious thought, once formed he yielded them to none; yet with the rare consistency that advanced with further accession of knowledge he was always in the line of progress."

"Two years before his death Judge Coe had a severe attack of pneumonia and hoping to avoid the recurrence of it, spent the succeeding winter in Caracas, Venezuela. About the same time his marriage with Miss Kate Foote, of Guilford, took place, and his friends looked for a bright afternoon to crown his life but his honeymoon was marred by ill health which did not improve. His last illness was of about six months' duration and his death was peaceful and painless. He was laid at rest in Walnut Grove cemetery. His home life, his untiring devotion to his mother and his loyalty to his friends and relatives was admirable and those who knew him esteemed him as a peer among men."

Judge Coe is survived by his widow, Mrs. Kate Foote Coe, now of New Haven, a woman of charming personality, superior intellect, and cultivated mind.

KATE FOOTE COE.

Kate Foote Coe, widow of Judge Andrew J. Coe, was born in Guilford, Conn., May 31, 1840. She is one of a family of ten children, a daughter of George A. and Eliza (Spencer) Foote; and her mother, still living, is possessed of good health and all her faculties at the age of 93.

Her ancestry on her father's side includes General Ward, of Revolutionary fame, and Colonel Andrew Ward, an officer in the French and Indian wars. The place at Nut Plains, Guilford, on which she was born, has been in the possession of the family for many generations and the first apple trees planted in New Haven county were brought here by her forefathers.

As a girl she attended the Guilford district school, afterwards Miss Dutton's Private School at New Haven, and later the Guilford Institute and High School. After having ac-

quired sufficient training she began her career as a teacher.

The first school over which she presided was the district school of her native village; later she taught at the Hartford Female Seminary. In 1863 she went south and during the latter part of the Civil war taught among the blacks.

One of her sisters was Harriet Ward Foote, who died in 1885 and was the first wife of General Hawley who later became United States senator from Connecticut. During the war she with Mrs. Hawley joined him at different points.

From Beaufort, S. C., where she first taught the negroes, she went to St. Augustine, Fernandino and Jacksonville, Fla., in all of which both she and Mrs. Hawley did their utmost in a noble, womanly way to alleviate suffering humanity and enlighten the helplessly ignorant. After the close of the war Miss Foote continued teaching.

The work of her pen has ever delighted the reading public and for many years she has contributed fiction to the best magazines. For fifteen years she was the Washington correspondent of the "Independent" and during her extended stay at the national capital she secured the fullest confidence of many of the country's famous men and women; and today it is probable that she enjoys as wide an acquaintance as any woman of New England. This acquaintance, coupled with the knowledge of the people of this and other countries, in which she has traveled extensively, has been of profit to the readers of her writings.

While in Washington she became interested in the welfare of the Indians and after the death of her sister, Mrs. Hawley, who was the first president of the Washington branch of the National Indian Society, she became the head of that society. In carrying out the duties of the office from 1886 to 1895 she traveled extensively over sections of the country inhabited by the Indians, and accomplished much in establishing schools and hospitals for them.

In 1886 she accompanied Miss Alice Fletcher, who had previously done much for the Indians, to Alaska. The party sailed from Port Townsend in a schooner and made the extended and somewhat perilous trip only under difficulties; and her companions, upon the advice of Charles Dudley Warner and General Hawley, were sent by the government to study the customs and needs of the nations. It is needless to state that they were greatly aided in the work by Miss Foote, whose observations were also helpful in her literary work.

Her extensive travels to other quarters of the globe have also broadened her scope of information. Her first trip abroad was in 1872 when she spent a year in Europe. Some time after her celebrated trip to Alaska she visited Japan in company with the daughter of Moses Beach, of Peekskill, N. Y., and while there making her headquarters at the American Le-

gation, was also entertained by the wives of leading Japanese officials, including Baroness Matsuki, in whom she found a constant friend.

In her travels Mrs. Coe has found and improved the opportunity of studying the people also in the Philippine Islands, Mexico, Jamaica and Trinidad and upon her marriage with Julge Andrew J. Coe she spent a winter in Caracas, Venezuela. Her married life, which was highly congenial, was saddened only by the poor health of her husband which in two years was ended by his death, a sad blow from which she has never fully recovered.

Upon the death of her husband she returned to Meriden and for some time thereafter conducted the Coe farm from which she held a life income, but a few years later she surrendered her interests to the future heirs and removed to New Haven, taking up her residence with her sister, Mrs. Edward H. Jenkins, whose husband, Dr. Edward H. Jenkins, is director of the Agricultural Experiment station of Connecticut, and where she has since resided also with her aged mother.

Mrs. Coe has for many years been a leader in the Daughters of the American Revolution. After having been one of the charter members of Mary Washington chapter, D. A. R., of Washington, D. C., she became a member of Susan Carrington Clarke chapter, D. A. R., of Meriden. Of this chapter she has been the regent since 1895. She is also a member of the Washington Ladies' Club of Washington, D. C. Her interest in Meriden is unbounded from her pleasant associations with it and Meriden is proud to claim her as its own.

JOHN DENTON BILLARD.

John Denton Billard, who died on February 1, 1902, was one of Meriden's most respected and prominent citizens. His long life was a successful one, and in his death Meriden sustained a genuine loss. Not only was he a shrewd, broad-minded man of business; but he possessed a personality that won for him many and true friends. He did not herald his good deeds, but they were not few. He was, in fact, an unostentatious American gentleman.

John D. Billard was born in New York City, February 28, 1819. At the age of fourteen he removed to Saybrook, Conn. After attending school two years, he was apprenticed to Jeremiah Gladwin to learn the carpenter's trade. At this time he became acquainted with a fellow employe of Mr. Gladwin, George W. Lyon, with whom later he was to form the firm of Lyon & Billard of Meriden. When his five years' apprenticeship was completed he continued to work for Mr. Gladwin as foreman, and superintended the building of some of the best houses in Essex, Deep River, Saybrook, and Lyme.

In 1847 Mr. Billard came to Meriden, and with Mr. Lyon formed the



John D Billard

firm which became so successful and which is now one of the most important business institutions of the city. The company was incorporated in 1878 as The Lyon & Billard Company, with Mr. Billard as president, an office he continued to hold until his death; although during the last ten years of his life he was not actively engaged in its management.

Mr. Billard's financial career was highly successful and most honorable. He was elected president of the First National Bank on April 2, 1881; also of the City Savings Bank, succeeding the late Joel H. Guy. He continued to hold these offices during the last twenty years of his life, devoting practically his entire attention to their interests and developing a knowledge of the business that gave him high rank in banking circles as a man of sound judgment and keen discernment, qualities that made him a safe and conservative executive for those two important and prosperous institutions. He was one of the organizers and original stockholders of both these banks and of the Meriden Trust and Safe Deposit Company.

Mr. Billard took an intelligent and active interest in the affairs of the city and town, serving the city as councilman and alderman. For over twenty years he was a member of the board of compensation, a position in which he rendered valuable service to his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Billard was married September 8, 1841, to Emeline E. Spencer, daughter of Captain Samuel Spencer, of Saybrook. She died in December, 1887.

Mr. Billard's home life was a happy one. He loved his home, and his beautiful house and grounds on Colony street gave him a vast amount of pleasure. The only social organization to which he belonged was the Home Club. Notwithstanding his quiet and simple tastes he was far from being a recluse; and his friends and acquaintances knew his as a pleasant and affable gentleman, kind of heart, and constantly doing little acts of kindness that showed the true spirit of charity.

At his death Mr. Billard left one son, John L. Billard, one of Meriden's leading citizens, who has followed in his father's footsteps as business man and banker; three grandsons, Herbert M., who died on October 14, 1902; Walter S. and Fred H. Billard, engaged with their father in the Lyon & Billard Company; and a great-granddaughter, Mary E., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Billard.

BERTRAND L. YALE.

Bertrand L. Yale, a successful gentleman farmer, prominent in business and politics at the time of his death, October 1, 1902, was born in Meriden November 17, 1820, the son of Levi and Anna (Guy) Yale. Mr. Yale's family was of Welsh and English descent, two of his ancestors, Bishops Morton and Bonner, being



B S Gale

high in ecclesiastical circles. Mr. Yale's father was an ensign in the war of 1812 and commissary of the troops stationed along the coast from New Haven to Branford. For twelve years he was postmaster of Meriden. He also represented the town in the General Assembly and held many other positions of trust.

Bertrand L. Yale spent his early life on the farm to which he was to return in later years. At the age of twenty he began the manufacture of cigars which he carried on for some time in a small way. From cigar making he turned his attention to the business of a merchant tailor and dealer in furnishing goods. While thus employed he received the appointment of postmaster, a position of honor and responsibility his father had likewise held. He held office for eight years and fulfilled the exacting duties with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his fellow townsmen.

Mr. Yale, while still a merchant, had entered the fire and life insurance business which grew so rapidly that he was compelled to dispose of his store. He carried on the insurance business for about twenty-five years. The latter part of his life he spent upon his farm.

Mr. Yale became interested in politics early in his career, taking an energetic part in the work of his party in the city and town. Later his business interests for many years prevented so active participation. In 1888, however, he was induced to accept the nomination for alderman. He served on the finance and water committees and in 1889, in addition to these, on the committee on by-laws. During his last term in the council he acted as mayor pro tem.

Mr. Yale was recognized as a man of sound and conservative business judgment. His financial ability was held in high regard, and for many years he was a director of the Meriden National Bank, a position he ceased to hold only when he declined a re-election.

Mr. Yale had a remarkably retentive memory. A lover of sound and elevating literature, he was an authority on the political and general history of our country.

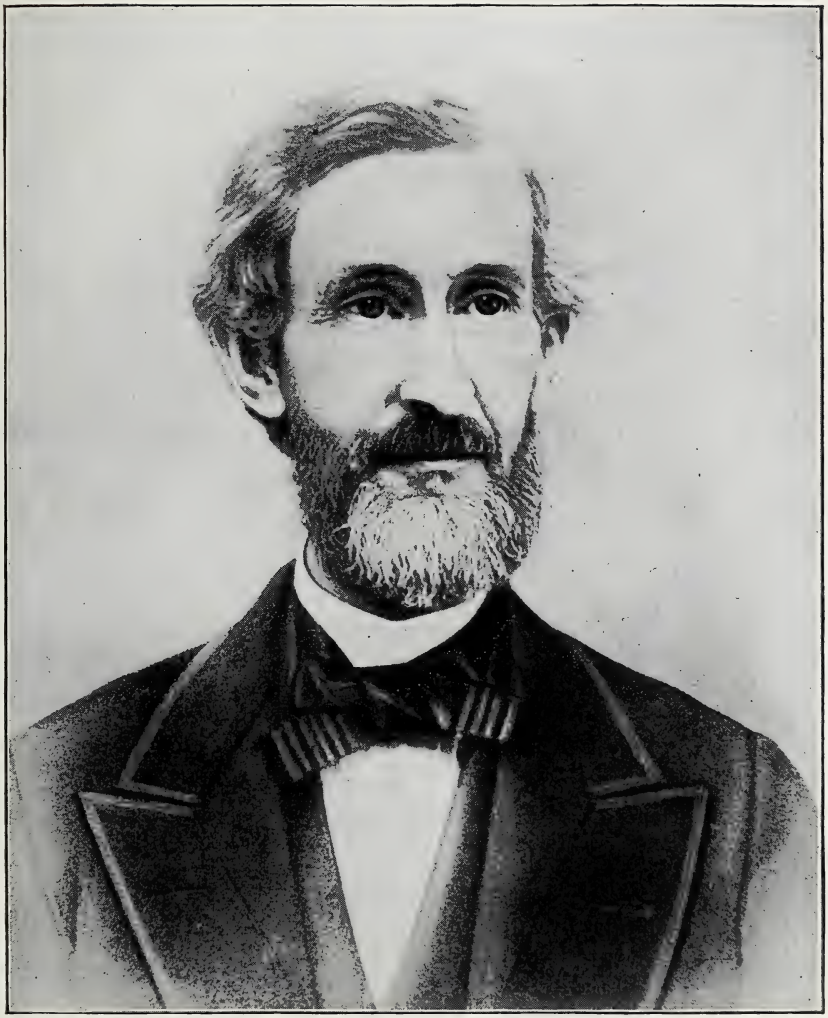
Mr. Yale's life furnishes an example of success won by industry and integrity and a determination to succeed.

His boyhood on the farm, no doubt, helped to supply the physical strength necessary, and the good old New England stock from which he sprang, furnished the inspiration and ideals that played no small part in his advancement.

Mr. Yale married on February 4, 1861, Chloe Elizabeth Holcomb, daughter of Honorable Raynor Holcomb, of East Granby, Conn. Mrs. Yale survives her husband. Their only child, Jennie Holcomb Yale, is now the wife of John B. Hall, of Meriden.

HIRAM AUGUSTUS YALE.

Hiram Augustus Yale, who was born in Meriden November 5, 1825,



Hiram A Gale

and died July 19, 1887, was a representative of one of the oldest and most distinguished families of Connecticut. He was a son of Samuel Yale, third, and a grandson of Samuel Yale, second, who was the first manufacturer in Meriden.

In 1791 he began to make cut nails in a small shop which stood on the hill near the present location of the Center Congregational church, he and his oldest son working their machine by hand and heading each nail separately. In 1794 he commenced the manufacture of pewter buttons, in which he was successful, employing several hands and accumulating a handsome estate. The business founded by him developed into the manufacture of pewter cups, teapots and other articles and grew to large proportions. It was continued after his death by his six sons, by whom other factories were established elsewhere. The industry prompted the foundation of the Meriden Britannia Company, of which a sketch is given on other pages.

Hiram A. Yale was a descendant in the eighth generation of Thomas Yale, one of the first settlers of Wallingford, who came to New Haven from England in 1637, and was one of the principal men of the colony. He was one of the signers of the Plantation Covenant, of New Haven, who, removing to what is now Wallingford, filled there many offices of public trust.

The father of Hiram A. and Samuel Yale finally settled in Meriden and continued the japanned tin and britannia business, having a shop for some time on Liberty street and later at the corner of East Main and Broad streets. He retired from business in 1858.

Hiram A. Yale's mother was Laminta Clark, daughter of Jahleel and Esther (Law) Clark, a lineal descendant of Jonathan Law, governor of Connecticut from 1742 to 1751. Jahleel Clark and his eldest son were in the battle of Bennington while Mrs. Clark and her younger sons were at Lanesboro, Mass., gathering in the wheat harvest, a duty which devolved on many a mother during the Revolutionary war.

Hiram Yale was educated in the schools of Meriden, fitted for college at the Episcopal Academy, of Cheshire; entered Washington, now Trinity College, at Hartford, in 1842, and graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1846. During his young manhood he was associated with his father in the manufacturing business and was at times his traveling representative. After his father's decease in 1864, upon him devolved the management of the estate which included much business property, besides a farm, all of which he managed successfully. Mr. Yale represented Meriden in the state legislature in 1851. In 1870 he was elected to the common council and was for four years a member of the finance committee. He was also one of the trustees of the Connecticut School for Boys from 1873 to 1877 and for many years one of the direct-

ors of the Meriden National and also of the Meriden Savings bank. Mr. Yale was one of the vestrymen of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, of which he was both a liberal supporter and a member held in high regard.

In 1866 Mr. Yale married Miss Mary Catharine Welles, of Wethersfield, daughter of John Welles (who traces his ancestry back to Gov. Thomas Welles) and Mary W. Wolcott, a descendant of Henry Wolcott, one of the first settlers of Windsor. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mary Welles, both of whom are active members of St. Andrew's church, and belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution. The former has been also one of the managers of the Curtis Home from its opening and president of the board since the death, in 1893, of Miss Celia Curtis, daughter of the founder.

HENRY T. WILCOX.

Henry Truman Wilcox (deceased) was born in Westbrook, Conn., Feb. 7, 1811. He removed to Meriden in 1829, entering the employ of Julius Pratt & Co., comb manufacturers. The same year he united with the Congregational church, and remained a faithful member as long as he lived.

On May 9, 1832, Mr. Wilcox married Elizabeth White Scovil, daughter of Eleazer Scovil, and a great-granddaughter of James Scovil, who settled in Meriden about 1722.

In 1836, Mr. Wilcox bought the piece of land on the Old Colony Road on which the family has lived since 1837. His house then stood at the northeast corner of said lot, and at the southeast corner he built a small shop about 1845, and manufactured coffee mills, spring balances, steelyards, bit braces and door-knockers. This shop burned down in 1851, and a second shop, built on the same site, was burned in 1853.

HENRY S. WILCOX.

Henry Scovil Wilcox, son of Henry T. Wilcox, was born in Meriden January 4, 1835, and received his education at the Old Road school and the West Meriden Institute—the latter located on the site of the present Church street school. Before leaving school he was employed in his father's shops part of the time and was bookkeeper there in 1848.

In 1854 H. T. and H. S. Wilcox were associated with the Meriden Hardware Co., located on the site now occupied by the M. B. Schenck Co.'s factory. This shop also suffered from fire, after which Messrs. Wilcox retired from manufacturing and in 1855 bought of Couch & Blakeslee a grocery store located at the south corner of Colony and Britannia streets. There they conducted a prosperous business under the firm name of H. T. Wilcox & Co.

In 1857, they moved the grocery business to the Andrews' block, located where the Grand Army hall now stands. That brick block, built about 1847, was owned by James F. G. Andrews, and was also occupied by Al-

mon Andrews' flour and feed store. On March 9, 1864, the building was burned down, whereupon H. T. Wilcox & Co. bought the land and ruins of the old building and erected the present block in 1865, which H. S. Wilcox sold to Merriam Post, G. A. R., in 1895. Upon the completion of this block, B. P. Foote, drug and hardware merchant, rented the north store and H. T. Wilcox & Co., conducted the grocery business in the south store.

About February 1, 1867, H. T. Wilcox & Co. bought the drug and hardware business of B. P. Foote. Ten years later they sold the hardware business to Church & Sprague, and retained the drugs together with manufacturers' supplies.

H. T. Wilcox died January 7, 1885, after which event, H. S. Wilcox continued the business until March 15, 1899, when as his health became impaired, he sold out to Edwin A. Watrous, after having occupied the same store thirty-two years.

In public matters H. T. Wilcox held the office of town treasurer from 1863 to 1874, and H. S. Wilcox held the same position from 1878 to 1879. The latter also served as councilman, as assessor, and as a member of the board of compensation and the board of relief.

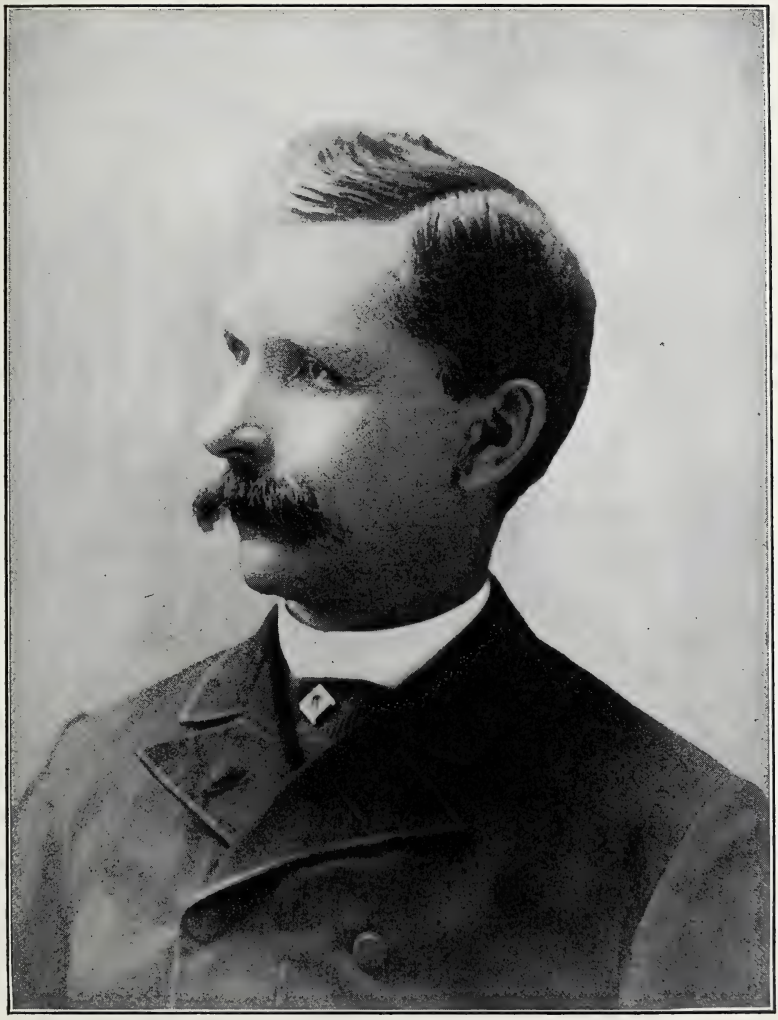
In 1886 he was chosen a trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank, and the year following a director of the same institution.

Mr. Wilcox united with the First Congregational church in 1852, and at various times was chosen to fill the offices of secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school, also of the Ecclesiastical society. In 1889 he was elected a deacon, which office he held till the date of his death, December 8, 1900.

Mr. Wilcox married December 1, 1869, Jane E. Merriman (daughter of Ira and Elizabeth Merriman), who, with his son, Albert H. Wilcox, survives him.

WILLIAM G. WARNOCK.

William George Warnock, a striking example of the self-made man of affairs of this vicinity, one of the largest taxpayers of Meriden, was born April 25, 1849. His parents, poor but worthy people, made their home in Meriden when he was three years old, and taught their children to be honest and industrious. Owing to the somewhat straitened circumstances of the family, the education of our subject, obtained under difficulties, was interrupted at the age of nine years when he left the East Meriden district day school and went to work on a farm. With an ambition and determination to get an education, later while working days at his trade in the factory of the Meriden Britannia Co., he studied evenings, until by self-denial and prudence he had saved enough of his earnings to take a course at Potter & Hammond's Business College, Hartford. Later he read law evenings in the office of the late Cook Lounsbury. At nine-



W. H. Warnock

teen, with his brother the late J. C. Warnock, afterwards head salesman of the Meriden Britannia Company, he started the Chicago Silver Plate Co., now the Aurora Silver Plate Company, one of the most prosperous concerns in the west, competing with Meriden's main line of manufacture. Two years later, in 1870, the Warnock Brothers sold their interests in Chicago advantageously and returned to Meriden, resuming their important positions in the Britannia factory. His brother, who had accumulated no inconsiderable fortune and acquired a high standing in the community, died at the age of 34, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

William G. Warnock gradually became interested in real estate brokerage and for many years has devoted his entire attention to the care and improvement of local property in which his keen foresight, sound judgment and careful movements have made him unusually successful. His knowledge of property values has for some years been much relied upon by others who have sought his advice. Perhaps one of the most conclusive instances of his judgment was his erection of the Warnock block on West Main street in which is situated the Hotel Bloxham. This stately business block has proven a wise and profitable real estate investment and was built by Mr. Warnock in 1887, under his own personal supervision, he furnishing material and labor.

Mr. Warnock having large interests in this locality and being naturally possessed of public spirit, takes no little pride in the rapid progress of Meriden. Among his real estate possessions is what was formerly known as the John Yale farm, situated on North Colony Road.

Mr. Warnock is a stockholder in several enterprises but has never sought prominence in public life, being devoted entirely to his business and his home. His love for good horse flesh has ever been his one weakness and he has always owned well-bred equines; and in years gone by he has had in his stables several celebrated trotting horses.

He was married June 2, 1885, to Miss Avilla M. Tinker, formerly assistant principal of the Church street school, of Meriden, in whom he has a most congenial, intelligent and able helpmate. Her father, the late William R. Tinker, removed to Vineland, N. J., in 1884, where he died March 13, 1905. He was well known in musical circles and was, in his day, a skillful player of the violin and a vocalist of note, which talents were inherited in the fullest degree by his children.

His daughter, Mrs. Warnock, before her marriage, was one of Meriden's most promising vocalists and her well-trained contralto voice was often heard in unprofessional concerts and private entertainments.

Mr. and Mrs. Warnock have been blessed with the following children: Harold, who died April 23, 1887, at the age of eleven months, John Chester, graduate of the Meriden High

school in 1906; William George Jr., attending Hopkins Grammar school, New Haven, both preparing for Yale college, and Katherine Avilla, a bright young miss just entering her teens. All the children are musical, making home most attractive, and Mr. Warnock finds his greatest pleasure at the family fireside.

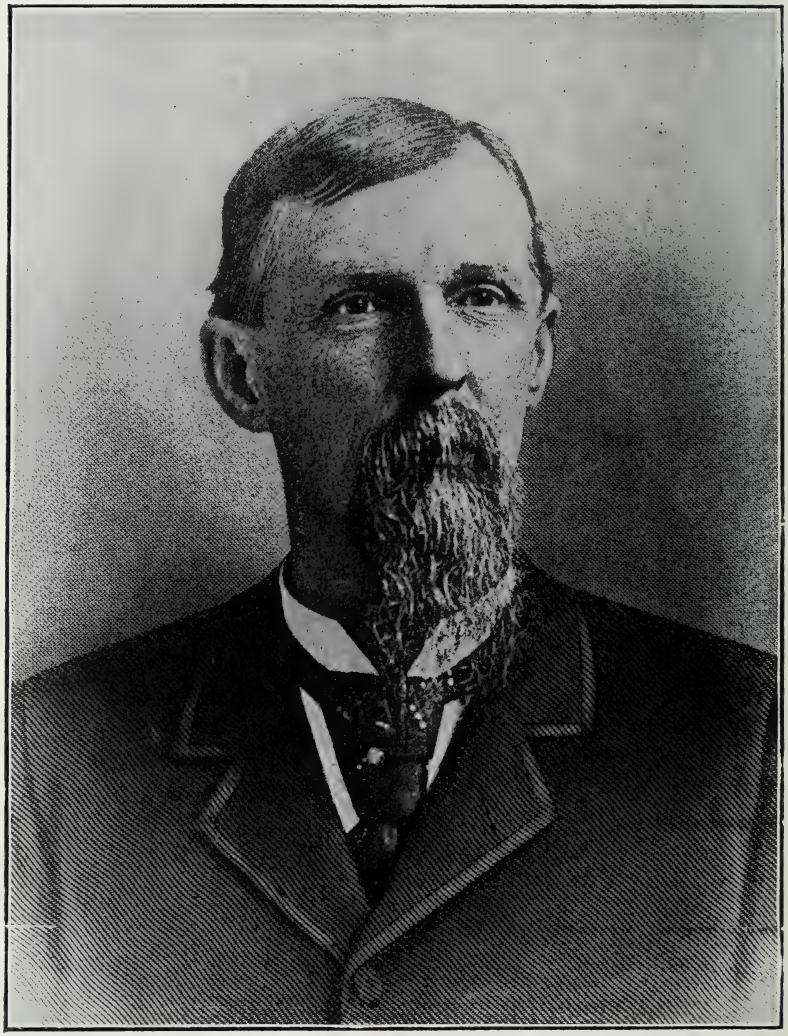
He is a member of the Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum, but besides being a member of the Arcanum Club, is not affiliated with any other social or fraternal organizations. Both he and Mrs. Warnock are members of the First Congregational church, in the welfare of which they take deep interest.

EDWIN CADY.

Edwin Cady (deceased) was one of Meriden's most upright and respected business men. For a period of over twenty-seven years, during which he held the responsible position of superintendent of the Meriden Cutlery Company, at South Meriden, he was looked up to as a man who stood for the very best and most honorable methods.

Mr. Cady was born in Woodstock, Connecticut, October 21, 1833, a son of Charles Edwin and Clementine (Cheney) Cady. His father, Charles Edwin Cady, was born June 3, 1804, in Killingly. Charles Cady followed his trade of blacksmith in his native place until 1837 when he removed to Southbridge, Massachusetts, where he started a machine shop in a place now called Saundersdale. He retired in 1857, but continued to live in Southbridge until he died, August 7, 1893, respected and beloved by all who knew him. His wife, Clementine Cheney, was the daughter of Captain Joel Cheney, of Southbridge, and died in 1871. They had five children, of whom Edwin was the oldest.

Edwin Cady received the ordinary education in the public schools of his native place, followed by a course of study in Wilbraham Academy. After leaving school he learned the trade of a machinist in his father's shop, and in a factory at Worcester, Massachusetts. In June, 1856, he went to Buffalo, New York, where he entered the employ of George Parr, as superintendent of his factory, and where he remained two years. Owing to the failure of Mr. Parr, he lost this position and soon accepted one with the firm of Pitts Bros., manufacturers of threshing machines. In 1859 he returned to Southbridge and after two years more, in 1861, he entered the government armory to engage in gun making. He filled this position acceptably for seven years, when he moved to South Meriden, Connecticut, and accepted the assistant superintendency of the Meriden Cutlery Company. A year later, on the death of the superintendent, he was promoted to that position and held it up to the time of his death, in 1895. His training as an expert machinist was of great value to him in his work, and his genial manners



Edwin Lady

and impartial judgment won for him the respect of all those who worked under him.

Mr. Cady was a Republican in politics, and although never seeking notoriety, did his duty in the community by serving for some time in the Common Council in which he admirably furthered the best interests of his ward.

He was always much interested in fraternal organizations and gained many friends through the lodges of which he was a member. These included Meridian Lodge, No. 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 9; Hancock Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Montowese Tribe, No. 6, I. O. R. M., and Columbia Council, No. 5, O. U. A. M. In religious views he was a Congregationalist. Kindly and affectionate in disposition, he treated every man as if he were a brother so that many a fellow citizen felt a keen personal loss at his death which occurred June 6, 1895.

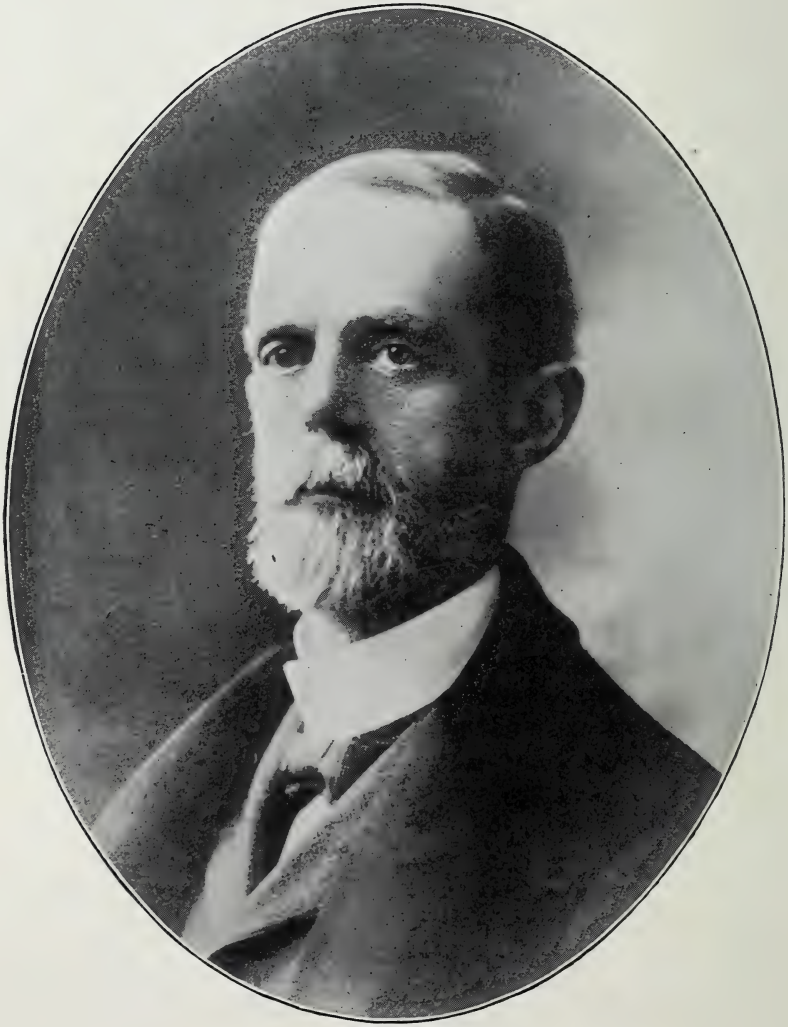
On December 25, 1856, Mr. Cady was married to Roselia Marble Lathe, daughter of Levi Lincoln and Francis (Marble) Lathe, of Southbridge. They had only one child, which was born July 22, 1862, and died August 14, 1865. Mrs. Cady still survives her husband, and has ever been most devoted to his memory as she was to him while he was still with her. Her home was ever her chief concern in life and to make that home a happy place was her great aim.

CHARLES N. WINSLOW.

The death of Charles N. Winslow on December 29, 1904, at the age of 60 took from Meriden's daily life a good citizen and a trusted business man. Mr. Winslow had been identified with the business life of the city for forty years, during which time he had been agent for the Meriden branch of the Adams Express Company. He was the oldest agent in the New England division of the company and was justly regarded as one of the most faithful and efficient.

Mr. Winslow was born in Newport, R. I. After completing his school career he was employed in the office of the Adams Express Company, in Bridgeport, to which city his family had removed. After two years he was appointed agent in Meriden, which position he held until his death. During the forty years he served in Meriden the office grew steadily in importance, a fact due in no small degree to his energy and business capacity. He ever had the interests of the company at heart and he was recognized as a progressive and at the same time strictly conscientious executive.

Mr. Winslow served as alderman in the Meriden Court of Common Council in 1880 and 1881. That was the only public office he ever held, although urged on more than one occasion to accept political honors. Far from seeking notoriety, he sought rather to devote himself to his home, his business and his church.



C. N. Winslow

Mr. Winslow was closely identified with the Center Congregational church, serving as deacon, member of standing committee and of the Ecclesiastical society's committee. For years he taught in the Sunday school. Of him his pastor, Rev. J. H. Grant, wrote: "Mr. Winslow was a pillar of the church in the fine old-fashioned sense. Next to his family came the church in his affection and in his loyal devotion. No succession of ministers in any church, I venture to say, was ever given a more gracious, practical and steadfast loyalty than he gave his ministers; nor has a generation of members in Center church often had before its eyes an example of such fine courtesy, honor and integrity as a man, a counselor of such ripe and trusted judgment, a Christian of such piety, and a churchman of such utter fidelity to the welfare of his church."

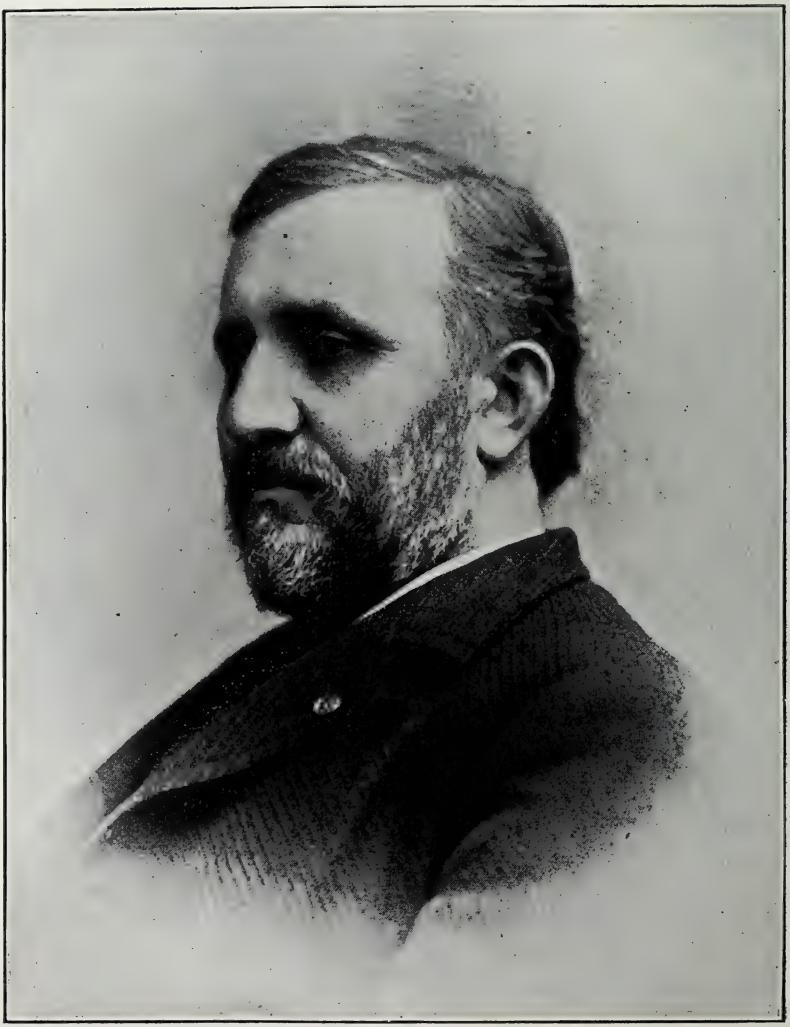
He was a member of no fraternal organization. In the year 1874 Mr. Winslow married Miss Henrietta E. Baldwin, of Meriden, who survives him. Mr. Winslow's home for thirty-one years was at 750 Broad street.

LE GRAND BEVINS.

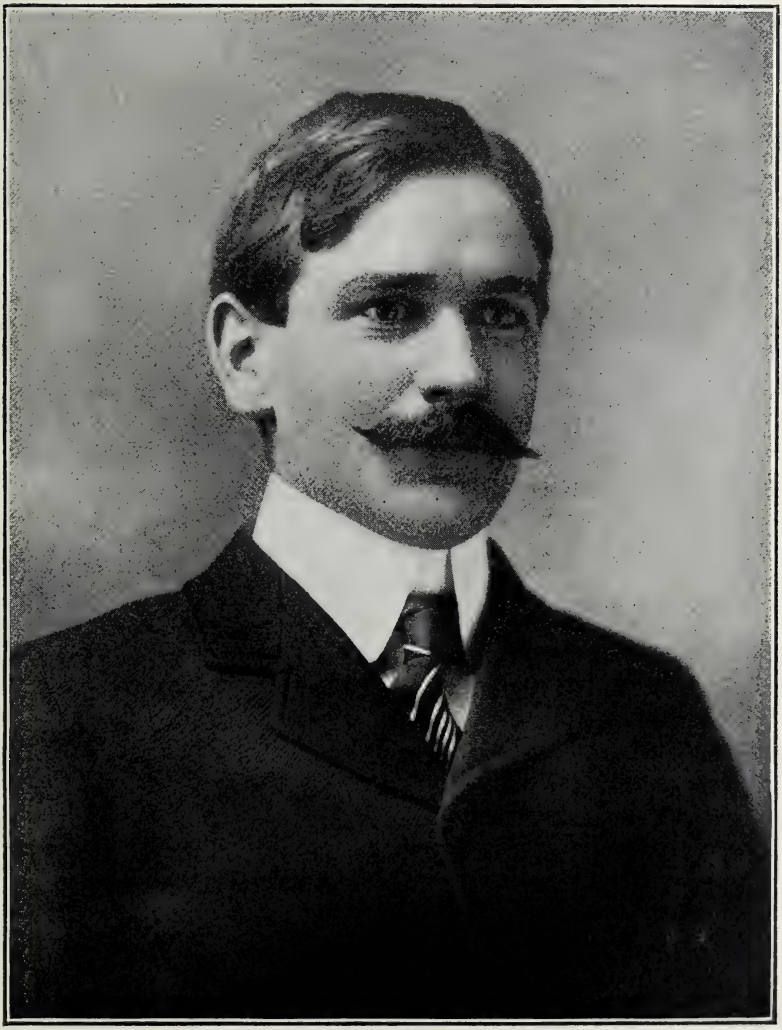
The death, on January 12, 1905, of LeGrand Bevins took from Meriden one of her best known and most highly respected citizens, one who for nearly twenty years was prominent in the public life of the city, and during that period earned the esteem of all.

Mr. Bevins was born in Meriden February 2, 1839, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bevins. He lived in his native town until he was nineteen years of age, when he went to Ohio, from which state he enlisted and was first sergeant of Co. E in the Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteers, leaving a position of railroad fireman to enter the service of his country at the breaking out of the Civil War. His record as a soldier from Bull Run to Appomattox was a splendid one. At the close of the war he returned to his old home and entered the employ of the Meriden Silver Plate Company, with which concern he remained until he was elected first selectman of the town in October, 1887.

Mr. Bevins was most devoted to his family, advancing years only adding to the pleasure he found in the family circle. In 1887 Mr. Bevins was elected selectman on the Democratic ticket and held the office continuously until October, 1893, making a record never surpassed by any Meriden government official. Under his careful supervision a town tax of eight mills was the highest rate that the town was obliged to make during his incumbency of office. He had previously served the city from the First ward as councilman and alderman, being mayor pro tem under Mayor C. H. S. Davis. After retiring from the office of selectman, Mr. Bevins was a member of the board of assessors for five years, at one time being its chairman.



LeGrand Bevins



Walter L Bevins

He was re-elected assessor in the October preceding his death.

He was a member of the special committee that revised the assessment of Meriden property, making out a new list at which real estate was put at its market value.

Mr. Bevins was a conservative man in all affairs, both public and private, and could always be counted upon to stand for the best interests of the town and city. He was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff at one time. In politics he was one of the old school Democrats, whose devotion to party was unwavering at all times.

Mr. Bevins was for a number of years before his death a trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank. In fraternal circles, he had held membership in Merriam Post, G. A. R., of which he was at one time a trustee. He was one of the organizers of Lincoln Command, U. V. U., and held its highest office, that of colonel. He was also prominent in the state organizations. He was at the time of his death treasurer of Alpha Lodge, Knights of Honor. He was also a member of Center Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Silver City Lodge, A. O. U. W.; Pacific Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Center Congregational church.

Mr. Bevins was deeply interested in school matters and for several years was chairman of the Corner School District Committee, before the consolidation of the districts took place. He managed the affairs of the large district most judiciously and had the confidence of the majority of the taxpayers, who insisted upon his retaining the office of chairman year after year. He was also prominently mentioned for other political honors and was a candidate for the legislature.

Shortly after leaving the army, Mr. Bevins married, May 17, 1865, Miss Jane L. Stiles, daughter of Captain H. H. Stiles, of North Haven, and besides his widow at the time of his lamented decease, was survived by three children: Miss Edith L. Bevins, principal of the Willow street school; Miss Anna L. Bevins and Attorney Walter L. Bevins, whose death, however, followed a few days after that of his father.

WALTER L. BEVINS.

A most promising life was cut short when on January 18, 1905, Walter L. Bevins died of pneumonia contracted while caring for his father, LeGrand Bevins, who died of the same disease January 12. Seldom has the death of so young a man caused such a genuine grief in a community. Not only was it particularly sad, coming so soon after that of his father; but Meriden citizens felt that Mr. Bevins was a young man who could ill be spared. He had crowded much into his brief career and had made for himself an enviable position in the life of the city.

Mr. Bevins was born in Meriden, August 4, 1876, in the house in which he died, and except for a short time when he resided in Winsted had lived

in Meriden all his life. He attended the Corner school, and later the High school, graduating in 1895. While there he was the first business manager of the school paper, *The Pennant,* and a member of the Alpha Delta Sigma. He was also organizer of the Clio Debating Club, a school organization, and after graduating, he went to Winsted, and for considerably over a year was editor of the *Citizen* there. He always evinced a liking for newspaper work, and had unusual talent in that direction, writing much for the local papers until his law practice became too engrossing. Leaving Winsted, having decided to adopt the legal profession, he entered the Yale Law School. During his attendance there he was editor of the *Yale Shingle* and was a student there when the Spanish War broke out. With the spirit of patriotism imbibed from his father and ancestors who had served their country in the Revolution, he enlisted in Company L, First Infantry, and was made orderly sergeant. He served with that company until peace was declared, and then resumed his law studies at Yale, graduating in 1900. In October of that year he opened his office in Meriden, meeting with deserved success. He was the first captain of the local Spanish War Veterans' Association, an active member of C. L. Upham Camp, Sons of Veterans, and was the promoter of Company L, Second Infantry. He was chosen first lieutenant of this organization, having declined to serve as captain.

He had been for some years prior to his death actively identified with the Center Congregational Church, and had been chosen deacon, an unusual honor for one of his youth. Death prevented his fulfilling the duties of the office. He was at one time superintendent of the Sunday School, and was the organizer of the Lyceum, a successful literary and debating society of the parish.

Mr. Bevins was the attorney for the Meriden Business Men's Association, and served it most efficiently. He was president of the Young Men's Christian Association and his deep interest in the work, and his executive ability made him one of the best presidents the association ever had. He was a member of Center Lodge, A. F. & A. M., the Arcanum Club, and the Meriden Wheel Club.

In politics, Mr. Bevins, like his father, was a Democrat. He served his party as councilman and alderman from the First Ward, and in the election in the fall before his death, was the nominee for representative to the general assembly.

Attorney Bevins was one of the best known and most highly respected young men in Meriden and none had a brighter future. He was able, energetic, honest and reliable in every respect. He was the soul of honor, a most faithful and obedient son, devoted to his home, taking interest in matters that offered rational amusement, and thoroughly devoted to anything that tended to help or advance his native town.

JOHN EDWARD DURAND.

Among those who were prominent in the affairs of Meriden must be reckoned John Edward Durand, deceased. Mr. Durand was a native of Cheshire where he was born April 9, 1833, one of a family of fourteen children. His father, George A., was of French descent and his mother, Eunice, a member of the Clark family.

Mr. Durand's school life was short. At the age of fourteen the desire to take his small part in the great business of life seized him and he entered the employ of his brother who was a carpenter and joiner in Meriden. During his six years of manual labor the longing to secure more education took possession of him and was manifest in his frugality, which enabled him to attend a select school in the Hanover district for a year.

While employed in a sash and blind factory in Waterbury there came to Mr. Durand that urgent call to defend the Union, and it was the pleasure of this loyal son and good patriot to exchange the instruments of peace for those of war. He enlisted as a soldier in Company C, 14th Conn. V. I., and was in some of the fiercest conflicts of the Rebellion, taking part in the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Belle Plain Landing, where he was wounded.

Returning to his old employers he remained with them until 1867, then worked in a clock factory and came to Meriden in 1868. He was stockholder, secretary and treasurer of the Steam Mill Lumber Company and its superintendent for three years.

He also traveled extensively throughout the state selling drugs and medicines for C. P. Colt until the possibilities of the real estate business claimed his attention and for twenty years in his capacity as agent for Hon. Ratcliffe Hicks, lawyer and real estate dealer, he was thoroughly conversant with all the vital interests connected with buying and selling lands and buildings.

Amid the laborious cares of his daily life Mr. Durand found time to cultivate the religious side of his nature. He was converted and joined the Center Baptist church at the age of fifteen years; but on his return from Waterbury he became a member of the Main Street Baptist church.

Mr. Durand was connected with Meridian Lodge, No. 77, F. and A. M.; Merriam Post, No. 8, G. A. R., of Meriden; the Knights of the Golden Eagle, and Hawley Division of the Sons of Temperance, Hartford. He was the first pension agent in Meriden and for years a notary public.

Mr. Durand's wife was Miss Roxana Sophia Root, daughter of a landowner and farmer in Waterbury. She survives her husband and resides in this city. He died July 29, 1899, and was buried in the Brockett cemetery at Waterbury.



J. E. Durand

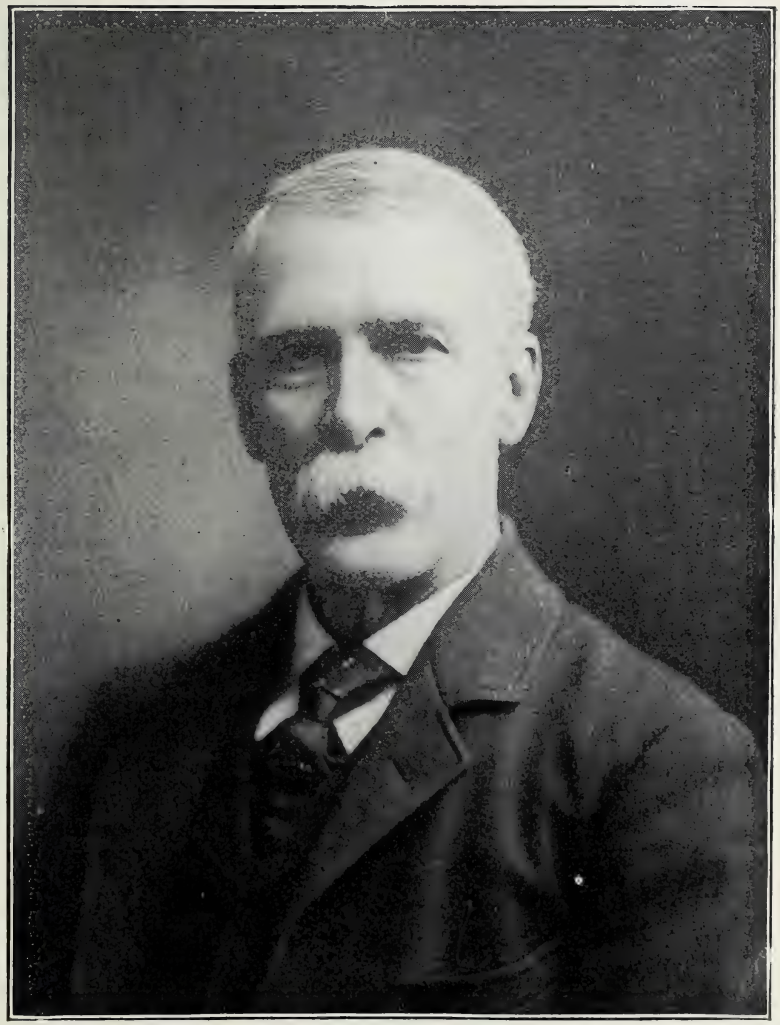
CHARLES A. KING.

Charles Alonzo King, superintendent of the gun shop of the Parker Bros., and one of the police commissioners of Meriden, was born in Franklin, New London county, Conn., February 10, 1837. He received his education in the schools of Franklin, Lebanon and Norwich, and in the last named city learned his trade as a machinist in the works of J. S. and S. J. Mowry. He worked at his trade next in the machine shops of Tracy & Brand where were manufactured whaling guns and projectiles for killing whales. His next employment during his younger manhood was at the works of Pratt & Johnson, manufacturers of sewing machines in Middletown, Conn., afterwards securing a more lucrative position in the factory of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company, at Bridgeport.

At the age of twenty-five he engaged in business for himself at Middlefield, forming a partnership with Otis A. Smith and at the breaking out of the Civil war leased the old Johnson & Pratt works and manufactured by contract for the government, parts of the regular standard government rifles that were used in the Rebellion by the Union army. This partnership was dissolved in 1865.

Immediately after the war Mr. King devoted his attention to designing small models of the various cannon, Columbiads, Dahlgrens, Rodmans, etc., used during the strife and which, it was thought by General Hawley and others, were to be continued in use at the U. S. armories for military drill throughout the country. With the proffered financial support of these moneyed men a corporation was formed at Hartford of which Mr. King was the practical head. The enterprise failed of any great success, however, owing to the lack of support accorded, at the time, to the military necessities of the various states. There was sufficient demand, nevertheless, to keep the plant busy until 1867 when Mr. King was called to Springfield, Mass., to become superintendent of the Smith & Wesson Fire Arms works, it being the ambition of that company to put on the market a higher grade of goods than they had formerly manufactured. In Mr. King the company soon found they had a man who could bring about the desired results and the world-wide fame of the Smith & Wesson revolvers is due to his ingenuity as a designer and practical thoroughness as a superintendent. He designed the army size revolver now largely used in the Russian and other armies and patented and sold to Smith & Wesson the improvements that made the weapon the leading revolver of the world and as such it is still recognized.

Mr. King was called to Meriden in 1874 to assume charge of the Parker Bros.' gun shops. Since coming to this city Mr. King has devoted his entire efforts to the making and improvement of the Parker shot gun which, under his watchful eye and studious brain, has for many years



C. A. King.

been known as the best shot gun in the world and is used by leading sportsmen in every quarter of the globe.

During his residence in Springfield in 1873 and 1874 he served as a member of the Common Council there and after coming to Meriden in 1875 was chosen a member of the local Board of Aldermen from the Third ward, where he looked well after the interests, not only of his constituents, but the whole city. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term in the board of police commissioners in 1903 by Mayor Seeley and the following year was reappointed by the same mayor for a full term.

Mr. King's family numbers, beside himself and wife, one daughter and three sons: Mrs. G. E. Gaskell, of Mystic, Conn.; Charles Winfield, associated with The H. Wales Lines Co.; Walter A., with Parker Bros., and Raymond Earle King, a student at the Meriden High school. Mr. King's three sons all reside in Meriden.

HENRY WARREN.

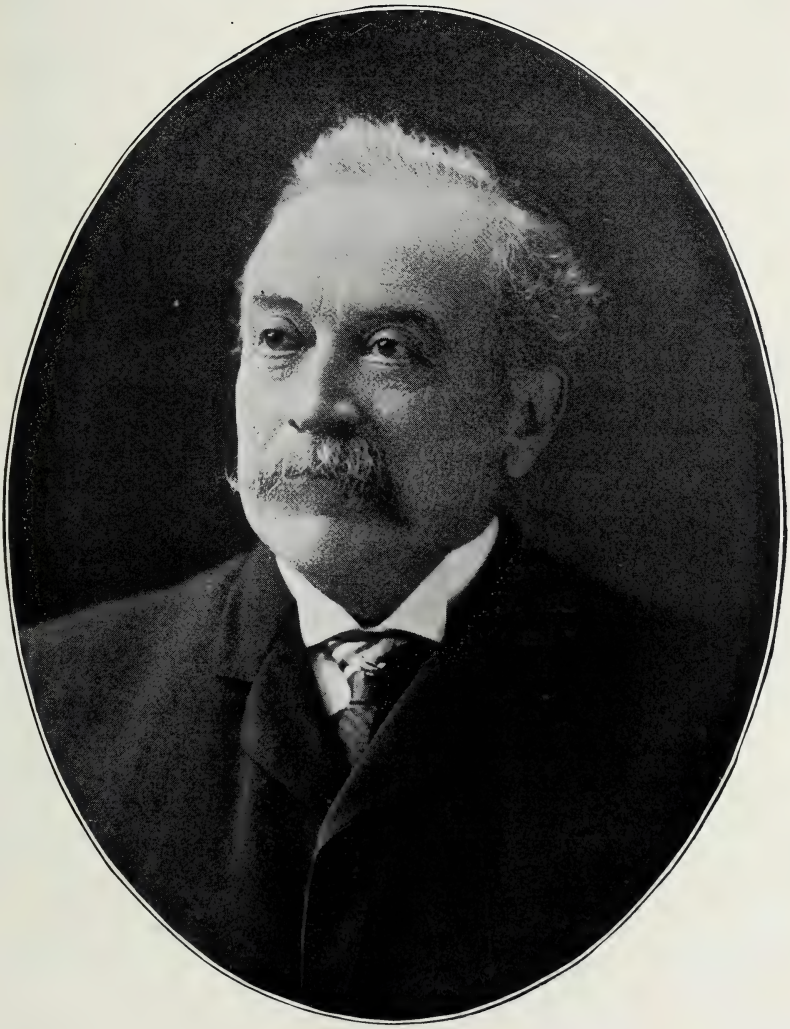
Henry Warren, a retired manufacturer and a well known citizen of Meriden, was born in Watertown, Conn., September 17, 1837. He is the son of Alanson and Sarah M. (Hickox) Warren and is descended from early English and American ancestry. William De Warenne, Earl of Normandy, who died in 1088, and who married the youngest daughter of William the Conqueror, is one to whom he traces his lineage. Richard Warren came over on the Mayflower, landed at Plymouth in 1620, and died there six years later.

In the seventeen hundreds the family moved to Woodbridge, Conn., and Abigail Warren, wife of James Warren, died in Watertown, September 13, 1800. Edward Warren, his ancestor, fought in the Revolutionary War, was drowned in the Naugatuck river in 1814, and his wife, Mary (Steele) Warren, died in Watertown, February 26, 1849, at the age of 85 years.

Alanson Warren, father of the subject of this article, was one of the founders of the Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine industry and died at Watertown, October 20, 1858.

Henry Warren, following in his father's footsteps, identified himself with manufacturing enterprises and for many years has been one of the directors of the Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company. He has until recently been president of the Butler & Lyman Land Company of Meriden, a company which has done much in the development of real estate and the improvement of property. Mr. Warren's business acumen and clear-headed foresight have made his advice in enterprises in which he has become interested much relied upon by his business associates.

Since taking up his residence on Britannia street, which is one of Meriden's most comfortable abodes, he has won the esteem of the community and the respect of his fel-



Henry Warren

low townsmen. He is one of the attendants of St. Andrew's Episcopal church and has shown an active interest in the affairs of that parish. In recent years, with his charming wife and daughter, he has spent much of his time in travel. Mr. Warren is a great lover of athletic sports and in various ways has encouraged baseball and other similar enterprises.

May 5, 1868, he was united in marriage with Josephine Griswold Lyman, daughter of William Worcester and Roxanna G. (Frary) Lyman, and they have one daughter, Miss Etta Warren, born some years after. The Warren home has for several years been much frequented by Meriden's society folk, and many delightful home affairs are arranged by Mrs. Warren and her accomplished daughter for the entertainment of their large circle of friends. Miss Etta Warren inherited from her mother her artistic tastes and her skill with the violin, mandolin and piano has delighted her friends upon many occasions at private musicales. She is also possessed of a highly cultivated soprano voice and is a member of St. Andrew's church.

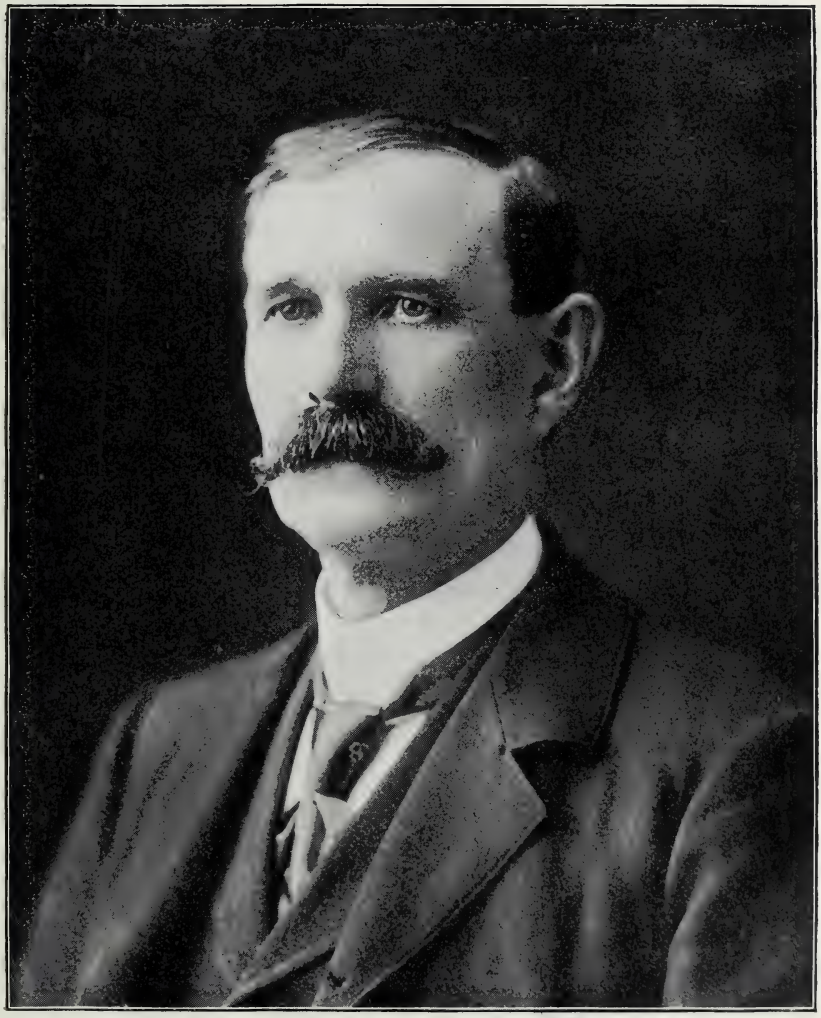
CORNELIUS W. CAHILL.

Among those who may be said to have amassed a competency in the legitimate business life of Meriden, outside of manufacturing, Cornelius W. Cahill is one of many.

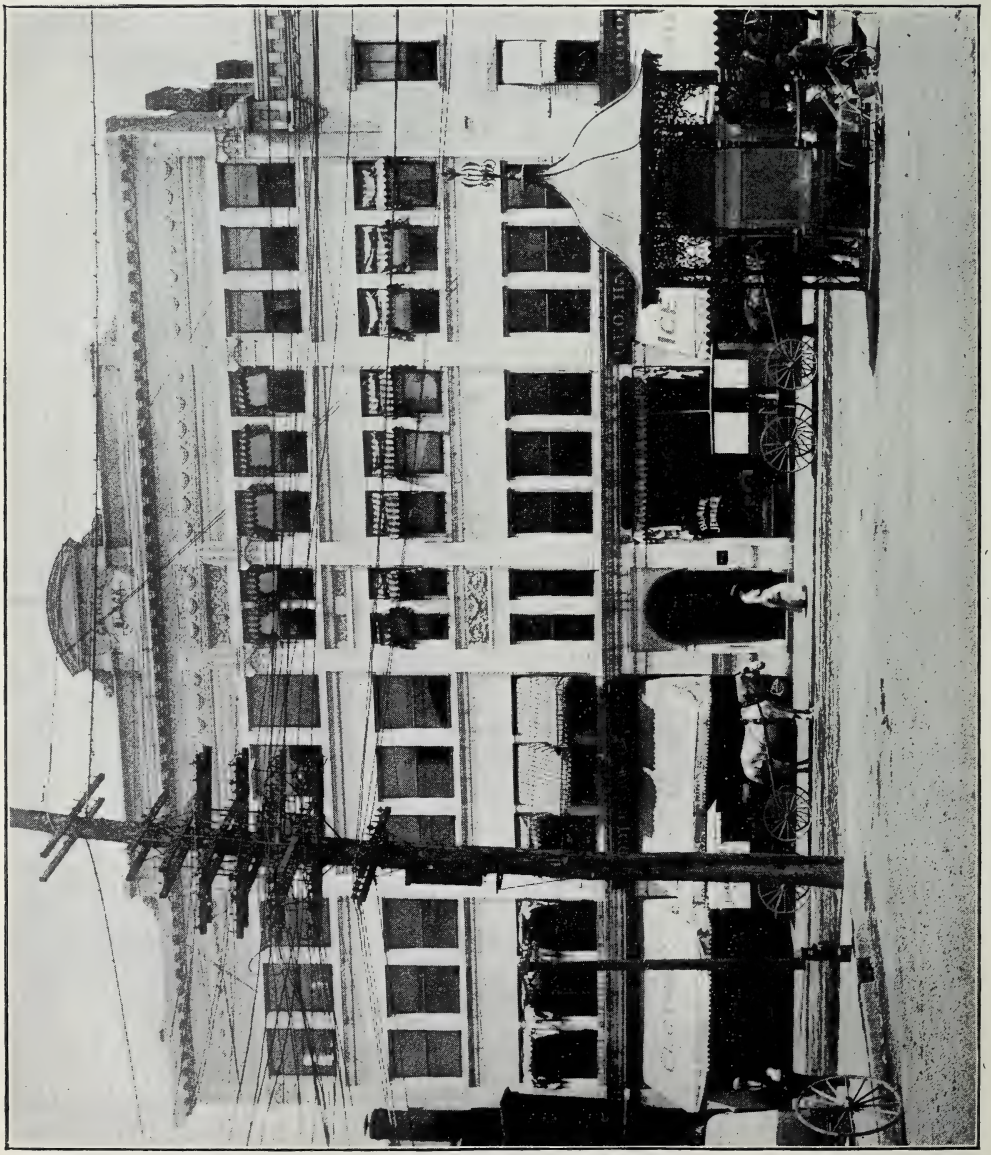
He was born in Ireland, February 12, 1844, and his parents located in Middletown when he was three years old. His father, now deceased, was for forty years or more a resident of Staddle Hill where he enjoyed the entire respect of the community. Cornelius attended the Staddle Hill school, which is still standing and one of the landmarks there.

At the age of fourteen he first commenced to work at his present business and by driving a butcher cart in Middlefield laid the foundation for future success.

In 1865 he came to Meriden and became a clerk in the provision store of Samuel C. Paddock where by courteous attention to patrons he made himself not only valuable to his employer but popular with a large number of customers. When he was offered a more lucrative position in the same line of business he made up his mind that he could be as much value in his own store as in that of others and encouraged by his customers, of whom he had made personal friends, established the City Market. After carrying on the business for some time alone he took in a partner, John W. Coe, and continued the business for three years. John W. Coe sold his interest to Patrick Cahill and M. O'Brien. It then became known as Cahill & O'Brien. Later with Bartholomew & Coe he went into the pork packing business, but within a year returned to the retail business at the City Market. Some time afterward he retired from the retail business, selling his interest in the City Market to B. B. Lane, and



C. W. Cahill.



THE CAHILL BLOCK

became again the partner of Bartholomew & Coe, who in the meantime had become the Meriden agents for Swift's beef. At the end of a year Messrs. Coe and Bartholomew retired, selling their interest to Mr. Cahill, who for the past twenty-five years has continued the wholesale commission business in handling the Swift beef, which at the close of the first century of Meriden's history has increased to almost mammoth proportions.

In 1903 Swift & Co. erected their present handsome brick building on North Colony street which is equipped with every modern facility for receiving, keeping and handling the large amount of beef shipped daily from Chicago and supplied by Mr. Cahill to the meat markets in the vicinity of Meriden. Mr. Cahill, having been for so many years engaged in the wholesale beef commission business, is known to the trade and is a business man of high standing in the community.

In 1895 he erected the Cahill block, located on East Main street, one of the substantial and most frequented business structures.

He is one of the directors of the First National Bank and a trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank.

He was married in May, 1869, and has five sons and two daughters: Three of his sons, William J., Joseph and George Cahill, are associated with him in business; C. W. Cahill, Jr., is a talented musician and organist of St. Joseph's church; Walter Cahill is still at school; Mrs. Joseph B. Weed, of New York, and Margaret Cahill. With the exception of one married daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Cahill reside in their comfortable residence on Liberty street with their children, all of whom give much promise.

EDWIN BROWNSON EVERITT.

Edwin B. Everitt became a resident of Meriden in the early sixties. He was born in Watertown, Conn., October 6, 1835, and is the son of Abraham and Sarah C. (Stone) Everitt. The family is of English origin and has been represented in New England for nearly three centuries. He attended the public schools of his native town and completed his education at the Watertown Academy. At the age of twenty he became a clerk in a jewelry house in Hartford, remaining but a short time. Returning home he taught school in his native town and also in Northfield. He then removed to Waterbury and engaged in photography. Subsequently, he opened a studio in Meriden which he conducted with success, but on account of ill health abandoned that calling and became agent for the Continental Life Insurance Co., of Hartford. So successful was he that he was soon made the company's general agent for a portion of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Some years later he accepted a clerical position with the Meriden Britannia Co. (now the International Silver Co.) which position he still retains. During the life-

time of Horace C. Wilcox he served that gentleman in a private capacity and since his death has assisted in the management of his large estate. For more than twenty years he was president of the North American Mercantile Agency of New York, and at the time of the formation of the C. F. Monroe Co., of Meriden, became its first secretary, which position he still retains.

Mr. Everitt was married in Otis, Mass., to Miss Mary A. Thompson, of that town, who descended on her mother's side from Peregrine White, the first child born among the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts.

Mr. and Mrs. Everitt are people of culture and refinement and are active, consistent members of the First Congregational church and in 1899 Mr. Everitt was unanimously elected a deacon.

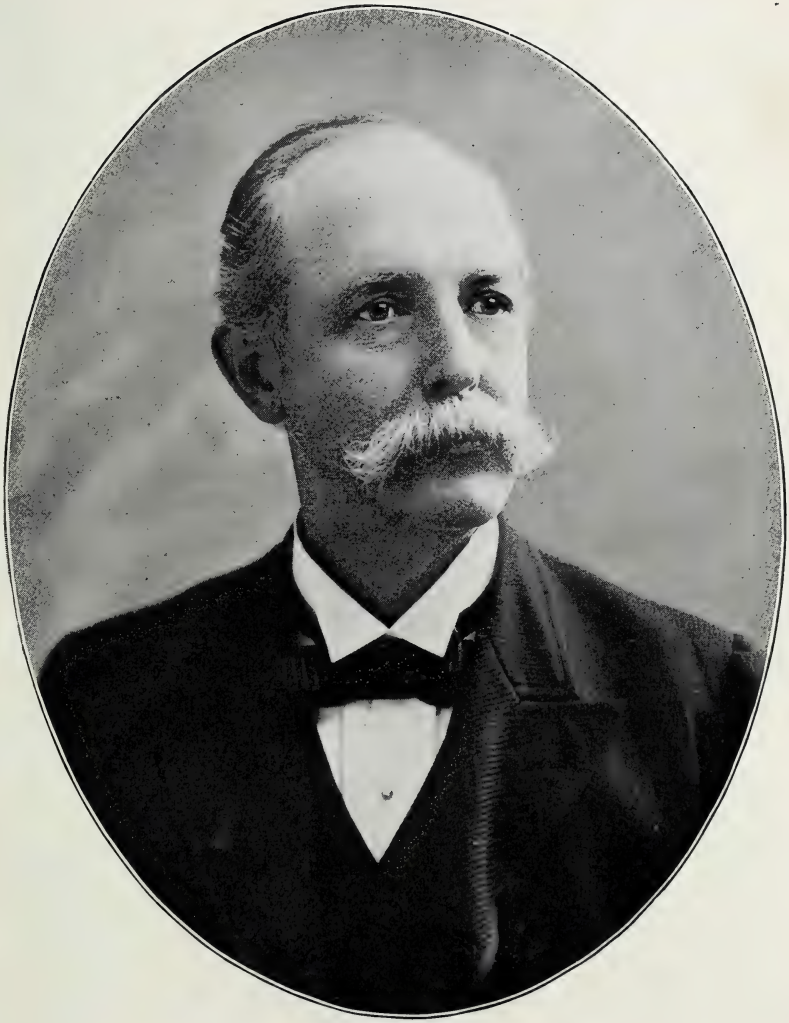
Emanuel Swedenborg is his favorite author and he has long been an ardent advocate of the beautiful truths known as the "Heavenly Doctrines of the New Church." He has always taken an interest in musical matters and for twenty-five years was organist and choir master in various churches in Meriden.

In a social way Mr. Everitt has always been gladly received by his many warm friends. He is one of the charter members of the Home Club and a member of the various Masonic bodies of Meriden, also the Scottish Rite bodies of New Haven and of Lafayette Consistory, of Bridgeport, where he received the thirty-second degree in Masonry. He is a Past Eminent Commander of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar, and has since 1893 filled the responsible position of prelate with great credit to this organization. He has also for several years been the chairman of the committee on Necrology for the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, Knights Templar, and in this connection has written several poems appreciated by the order and copied through the other grand jurisdictions of the United States. He was the poet at the fiftieth anniversary of Meridian Lodge, F. & A. M., when he read a lengthy poem which was happily received and copied by the Masonic publications of the country.

Having been one of the St. Elmo party who visited California in 1883, he produced on his return, by request, a beautiful souvenir volume entitled "From the Nutmeg State to the Golden Gate."

Mr. Everitt has been for many years a member of the Sons of the American Revolution by reason of the service of his grandfather, Abner Everitt, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary army.

Edwin B. Everitt is a man of strict integrity with high business principles, a good citizen, very popular with his large circle of friends, a favorite among his associates and beloved throughout the town as well as at his own fireside, where he finds his greatest enjoyment.



E. B. Everitt

ISAAC CHAUNCEY LEWIS.

The late Hon. Isaac Chauncey Lewis, whose strong personality was felt in almost every walk of life, was one of the most public-spirited men that have ever been a part of Meriden's history. He was born October 19, 1812, in this city, and was the son of Isaac and Esther (Beaumont) Lewis, his first American ancestor, William Lewis, coming from London in the ship Lion arriving at Boston September 16, 1632. He settled in "Newtown," now Cambridge, Mass., in the summer of 1636 and was, later, one of a company who became the first settlers of Hartford, Conn. His name is inscribed on the monument erected by the Ancient Burying Ground Association of Hartford, in the memory of the first settlers of that town.

The subject of this sketch is a descendant in the eighth generation. His father, Isaac Lewis, was born in Wallingford and married Esther Beaumont. He removed to Meriden where, as an inn-keeper and later a merchant, he was held in high esteem in the community. He was chosen town clerk in 1806 soon after the day of Meriden's incorporation as a town and held that office until his death in 1823.

His son, Isaac C. Lewis, had but one term of school after his father's death, barring an occasional attendance at evening school. Although only eleven years of age at that time he secured employment on farms and in stores until he entered the establishment of Charles and Hiram Yale, manufacturers of britannia ware in Wallingford, in his fifteenth year. From then on Mr. Lewis engaged in business several times until 1841, when he bought the Fordred farm, about a mile east of Meriden center. He built a factory there and carried on the britannia business—the initial step in a manufacture which has made Meriden noted all over the world.

He increased his works in 1850, bought a larger factory in East Meriden and shortly after, with Daniel B. Wells, formed the firm of I. C. Lewis & Co. After Mr. Wells' death Mr. Lewis purchased his partner's interests and continued alone.

In 1852 the Meriden Britannia Co. was formed and incorporated with a capital of $50,000. For nearly fourteen years he stood at the head of the new corporation, giving his constant, personal attention to the business in all its details; not only did he perform all the onerous duties of the presidency, but he exercised a careful supervision over the manufacture of the company's goods which went far toward establishing the enviable reputation that the product of the factory soon gained.

At the end of this period the affairs of the Britannia company were running smoothly; and its success became so pronounced that Mr. Lewis felt he should be partially relieved. He accordingly, in January, 1866, resigned from the



Isaac L. Sweet's

presidency of the company. The office of superintendent, the duties of which Mr. Lewis had fulfilled most practically all these years, was then created and Mr. Lewis was elected to fill the office which he held unti 1874, which he then resigned. On the death of Horace C. Wilcox, in 1890, at the earnest solicitation of the directors, Mr. Lewis again assumed the office of president, thus continuing in that capacity and until his death. Though relieved of the presidency from 1866 to 1890, Mr. Lewis, during this entire period, was a potent factor in the management of the company's affairs; and his executive ability and substantial views played an important part in shaping the course of the Meriden Britannia Company, whose business had grown to large proportions, which state of affairs was arrived at in no small degree by Mr. Lewis' practical knowledge of profitable manufacturing and his wise counsel as a director.

Mr. Lewis became a stockholder in a score of thriving concerns and a director in many of them. He was president of the Meriden Trust and Safe Deposit Co., the Miller Brothers Cutlery Co., one of the directors of the Meriden National Bank, the Meriden Savings Bank, the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., the Meriden Silver Plate Co., the Manning & Bowman Co., Edward Miller & Co. and others.

Mr. Lewis was reared a Democrat, but during the War of the Rebellion, joined the Republican party and was a stalwart exponent of that party until 1883, when on the sole issue of temperance, he joined the Prohibitionists. He was an ardent advocate of woman suffrage and gave substantial proof of his confidence in it, "as a cause that ought to prosper and is bound to succeed."

He was elected representative to the legislature four terms, was justice of the peace three terms, a member of the board of relief and of the city council, an alderman, and was mayor of the city from 1870-'72. He was at the head of the commission appointed in 1865 to build the water works, and the following year was appointed one of the sewer commission.

As a philanthropist he did much for his city. To the City Mission he presented a handsome block, to St. Paul's Universalist church, of which he was an earnest member and active worker, his contribution was a large part of the $100,000 that it cost, as well as giving of his means for the new organ and other features; and he gave freely to many organizations. He was a life-long member of Meriden Center Lodge, No. 68, I. O. O. F., and of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Lewis married May 11, 1836, Harriet, daughter of Noah and Nancy (Merriman) Pomeroy, of Meriden, Conn. Six children were born to them: Nancy Melissa, Martha Eugenia (now Mrs. Charles H. Fales), Henry James, Isaac, Kate Alabama (now Mrs. James Henry Chapin) and Frank, two of whom, Mrs.



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE ISAAC C. LEWIS.

Charles Henry Fales and Mrs. James Henry Chapin, are living, and reside in Meriden. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis celebrated their golden wedding May 11, 1886.

In 1868 Mr. Lewis erected a costly residence on East Main street, and this is still one of the handsomest in Meriden, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

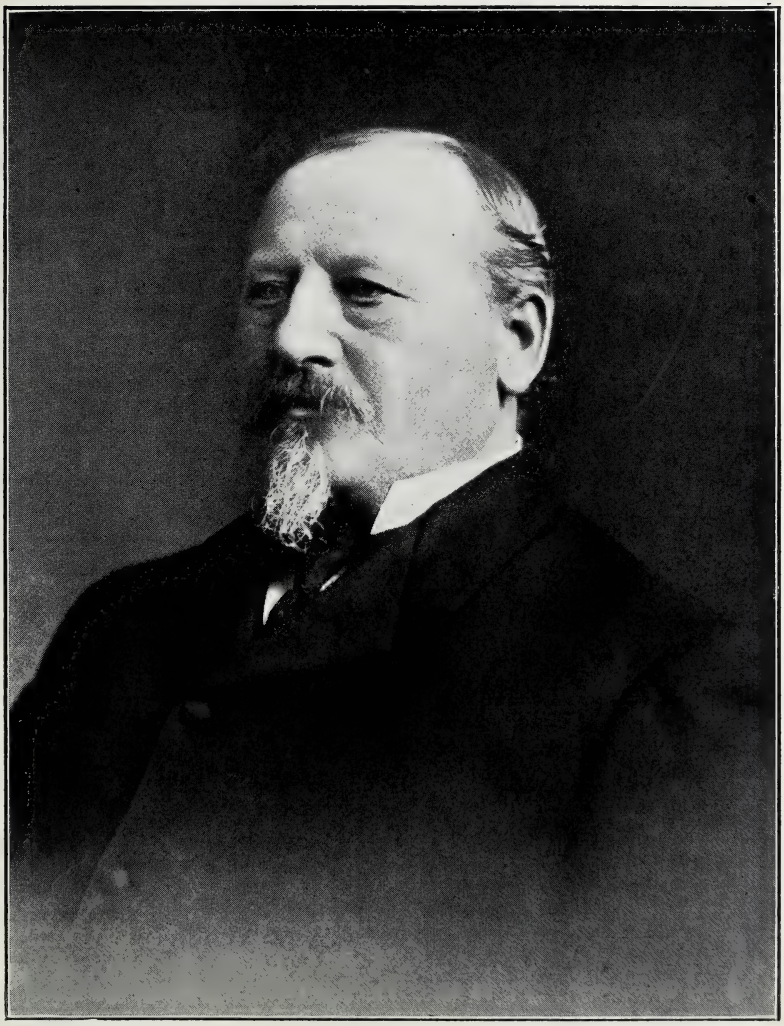
Mr. Lewis' death occurred December 7, 1893. Of Mr. Lewis' personal characteristics there was a perfect balance of every good quality: public spirit, sound judgment, generosity, prudence, humility, firmness, affection and conscience combined in a complete manhood, to whom one could safely point and exclaim, "Behold a Christ-like man!"

AUGUST MASCHMEYER.

Meriden is proud, while celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of her birth as a town, to number among her prominent citizens, not only those who can look back to a long line of Connecticut and New England ancestry, but also those Americans by adoption who have thrown themselves heart and soul into the social, business and political life of the community.

Mr. Maschmeyer was born near Hildesheim, Hanover, Germany, January 14, 1843. His father, Edward Maschmeyer, was born in the same place, and was successfully engaged in a general mercantile business until 1854, when he decided to try to still further enlarge his fortune by coming to America. Leaving his wife and children until he should have made a home for them in the new land, he came to South Meriden and entered the employ of the Meriden Cutlery Company, and later that of the Parker shop at Yalesville. When the Civil war broke out, although he had only been in this country for seven years, he heeded the call to arms and went out to help preserve the Union. He joined Company H, Sixth Connecticut V. I., and after proving his bravery and devotion gave up his life for his adopted country, and was buried at Hilton Head, S. C., in September, 1862. He never saw his wife and children after leaving his home in Germany. They felt, however, that the land for which he had given up his life was the home for them, and in 1864 August came to this country, followed later by the rest of the family.

August Maschmeyer was fortunate enough to receive a good education in Germany, having been a student in both public and private schools. He learned the trade of a blacksmith, and worked at this occupation until he came to America. His journey hither was a long one, consuming six weeks on the sailing vessel Neptune. Through the good offices of friends he at once secured employment on his arrival and worked as a mechanic for a month. Relatives of his having previously settled in Yalesville, he decided to follow them, and became an employe of the Meriden Cutlery Company, with whom he



August Mauhmeyer

remained for six years. After working for the Charles Parker Company for five years more, he decided to strike out for himself, and accordingly in 1877 began business as a wholesale and retail dealer in bottled beer and other goods. This enterprise proved very successful, and after eight years he was enabled to sell his business and retire from active work. During these years he had acquired considerable property about the city, the management of which now employs his time. He has a fine residence on North avenue, where he and other members of his family make their home, and where his mother lived up to the time of her death.

Mr. Maschmeyer has always been active in the political life of the city. He was a Republican up to the time of Horace Greeley, and since then has been a Democrat. In 1891 he was elected a member of the Meriden City Council, and has been a member of the Board of Education and the General Assembly of Connecticut. He is at present a police commissioner. He is a member of the German Aid society, the German Order Harugari, and the Saengerbund.

LEVI E. COE.

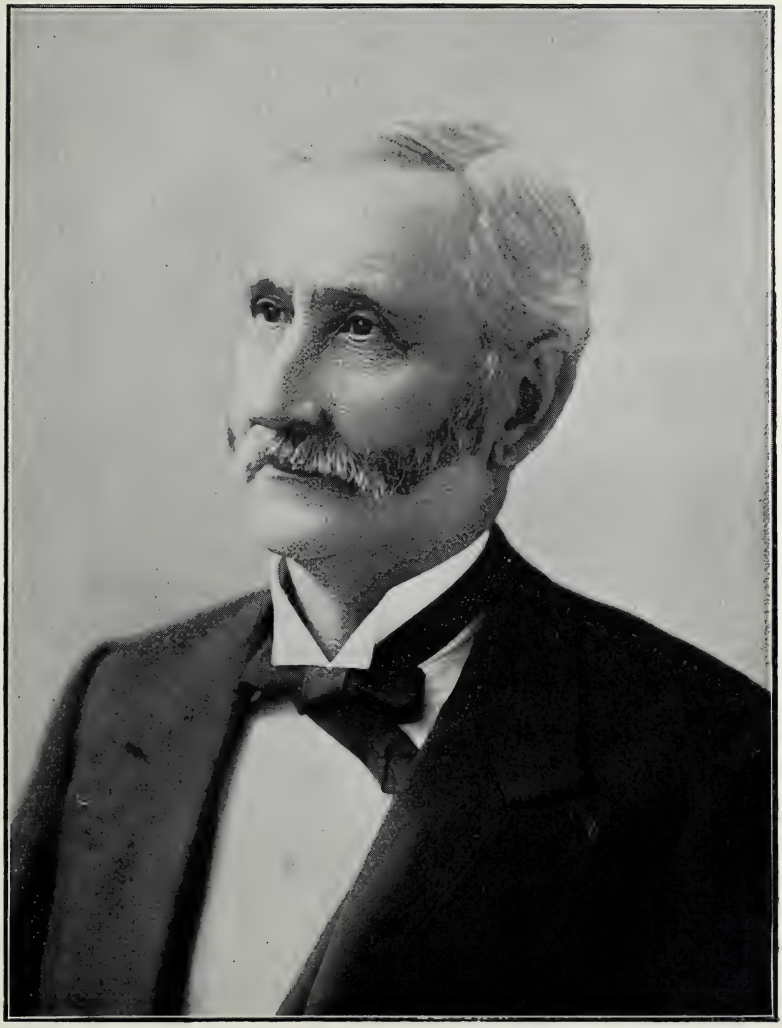
Levi Elmore Coe, whose influence during a long and varied career was felt in all the vital problems of this city, was the son of Colonel Levi and Sarah (Ward) Coe. He was born in the town of Middlefield (then Middletown), Conn., June 6, 1828. He received his education in the common schools of his neighborhood and Post's and Chase's academies. He was ready to teach school at the age of eighteen, a profession which he followed until he was twenty-five, when he located in Meriden, where he lived until death claimed him November 2, 1903.

In 1854 Mr. Coe was elected treasurer of the Meriden Savings Bank, which bank recognized his abilities and honored him with the offices of treasurer, director and president, the last two of which he held until his death.

At the age of seventy-one years he was elected president of the Meriden National Bank and when he died was, therefore, president of that financial institution, and also of the Meriden Savings Bank.

Mr. Coe was a man of great mental as well as business capacity and whatever he undertook was characterized by conscientious care. To this fact was due his ability to carry on his multifold duties with confidence in their stability and success. For fifty years he was engaged in the real estate business, and he rendered to Meriden invaluable service in this connection.

He was interested in all agricultural matters and especially in pet stock, and his interest crystalized in practical form when he became identified with various agricultural societies. He was secretary of the Farmers' Club; president of the Meriden Poultry Association; secretary, treasurer



Levi Eleor

and president of the Meriden Agricultural Society; secretary and treasurer of the Connecticut Agricultural Society, and a member of the State Board of Agriculture.

He was elected a grand juror in 1857, was registrar of vital statistics from 1858-63; justice of the peace from 1858 to 1881; trial justice for many years; first clerk of the city court; judge of the city court for eighteeen years; agent of the town to convey real estate; registrar of voters, town clerk, judge of probate, a water commissioner, an office he held for several years; and a member of the board of compensation. These offices all enabled him to advance the city's interests; but it remained for an appreciative people to offer him their highest gift, and he was elected mayor of Meriden in 1894 and re-elected in 1896 and 1897. He planned and executed with intense earnestness every project that claimed his time and his logical mind, coupled with his experience in private affairs, combined to give Meriden an administration in which the people had fullest confidence.

Judge Coe was a Republican and he served as a member of the town and state central committees. The Secretary of the Interior appointed him a town site trustee for Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was a director of the Meriden National Bank from 1862; treasurer of the Meriden Park Company; director of the Meriden Hospital; trustee of the Curtis Home; president of the Meriden Historical Society; a member of the Connecticut Historical Society; S. A. R., and of the Home Club. He was author and compiler of the "Coe-Ward Memorial," a genealogical work published in 1897.

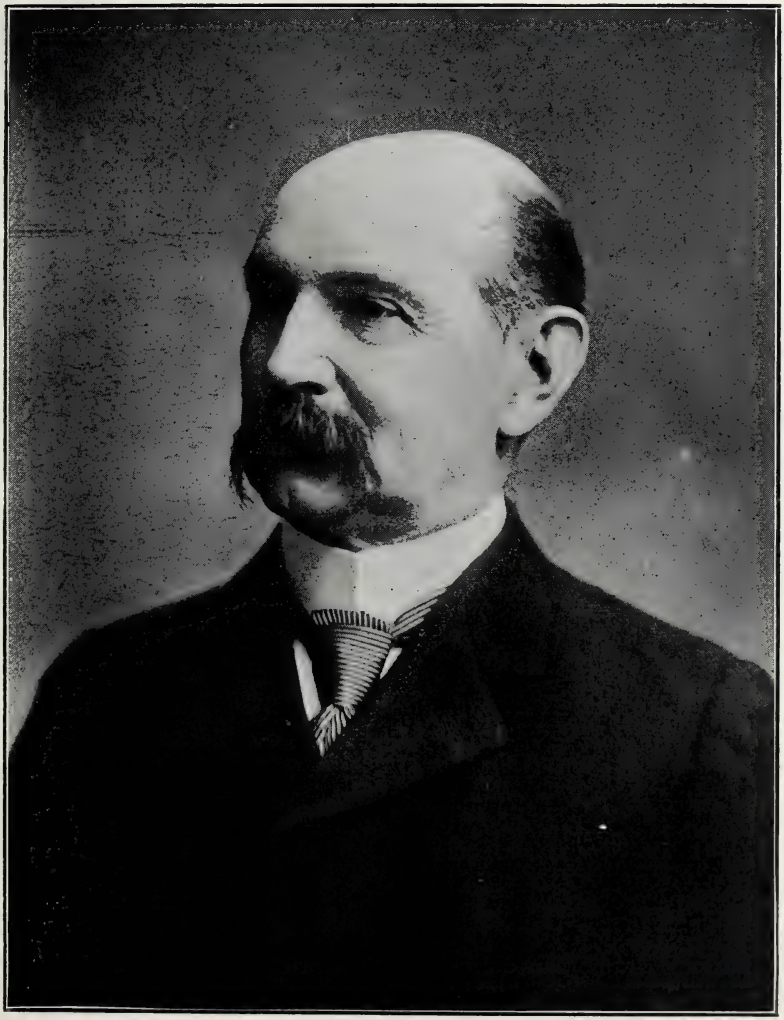
He was a prominent Mason; was secretary, treasurer and held the office of worshipful master of Meridian Lodge, No. 77; eminent commander of St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar, and representative of the Grand Commandery of South Dakota near the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. He was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal church and a vestryman from 1858. The beautiful public library in Middlefield was a gift of Judge Coe in 1893.

He married Sophia F. Hall, of Middlefield, in 1851, and she now survives him. Their two children died while infants. Mrs. Coe is the author of the Hall family genealogy, a work of great value from its completeness in detail. She still resides in Meriden.

GEORGE COUCH MERRIAM.

Captain George Couch Merriam, born September 17, 1834, was the son of Nelson and Rosetta Merriam. The place of his birth was the old Merriam homestead, built about 1730, which stood on the site now occupied by the Home Club. His father was among the founders of one of the oldest manufacturing establishments in Meriden.

For over two centuries the Mer-



Geo. C. Merriam

riam family have been prominent in Meriden and Wallingford, John Merriam came to Meriden from Lynn, Mass., and from him the Merriam family have descended. He died in 1689.

George C. Merriam received a good common school education and in 1851 went to New York City where he remained eight years in the wholesale drygoods concern of Hopkins, Allen & Co. In 1859 he went to Wilmington, N. C., where he became a member of the business firm of J. M. McCarter & Co.

Shortly after Fort Sumter was fired upon he returned to Meriden and on July 10, 1862, enlisted as a private in Company A, 15th Conn. Vols. and served throughout the remainder of the war. He was in active service in the battles of Fredericksburg, Edenton Road, siege of Suffolk and Providence Church Road. For gallant service he won several promotions and retired with the commission of captain of Company K of the 8th Conn. Vols.

At the close of the war he became superintendent of a large lumber business at St. Johnsbury, Vt. During that period he returned to Meriden and on May 29, 1867, married Helen R. Bradley, daughter of Charles and Sarah (Parker) Bradley. Soon after his marriage he went to Nevada where he spent two years. In 1872 he returned to Meriden and became connected with the Chas. Parker Company.

In 1880, after the death of Albert Foster, he became secretary and treasurer of Foster, Merriam & Co. and upon the death of James Sutliff, the president, he was elected president and treasurer, which position he retained until his death. While in Boston on a business trip, he died suddenly on March 23, 1904.

A life-long friend said, upon hearing of his death, "One of God's noblemen has passed away. He was my friend and counselor in many a perplexing situation. He was beloved by all who knew him, rich and poor, high and low, and Meriden is a better city for his having lived here."

He was a Christian gentleman, a shrewd and careful business man, whose integrity and honesty of purpose were unimpeachable, a consistent church member who practiced the golden rule, and was always ready at all times to give his money and exert his influence in every good cause. He never shirked his duty to his fellow citizens. He served six years in the Meriden Common Council and two years as alderman. In politics he was a Republican. He was for many years identified with the First M. E. church and was a trustee of the church from 1880 until his death. He was a director of the First National Bank, a member of Merriam Post, No. 8, G. A. R., and also of Capt. John Couch Branch, Sons of American Revolution. He was a member of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, and a life member of the Meriden Y. M. C. A., a member of the Home Club, and of the Meriden

Hospital corporation of Meriden. He is survived by his widow and by an adopted son and daughter, Robert J., and Ruth K. Merriam, children of his brother, Nelson C. Merriam, Robert J. being the present treasurer of Foster, Merriam & Co.

RATCLIFFE HICKS.

A former resident of Meriden of much renown is Ratcliffe Hicks, and his family name holds an honored place in the history of Connecticut, where for over a century and a half his antecedents have lived.

Born in the town of Tolland, Conn., in 1843, he is the most prominent representative of his distinguished ancestors. Thomas Hicks, his first paternal antecedent in this country, left London, England, in 1644, and located in Scituate, Mass., and his descendants have won success in many of the higher walks of life.

On his mother's side Ratcliffe Hicks is descended from Charles Stearns, born in England, and settled at Watertown, Mass., in 1646, and there acquired lands which he sold to his son, Samuel, and in 1681 removed to Lynn, Mass. His son, Shubael, born at Cambridge, Mass., in 1655, served in the Narragansett Expedition in the King Philip War, and was stationed at the garrisons at Chelmsford and Groton, Mass., and whose brother, Charles, was slain in the king's service. Shubael Stearns, second, was one of the original grantees of land in what is now Tolland, where he settled in 1714 and who later became a Baptist preacher, but on account of religious differences with his neighbors removed with his own and his sons' families to Virginia, later to Pepper Cotton and finally to Sandy Creek, N. C., where he died. His son, also named Shubael, became a noted preacher of the same faith.

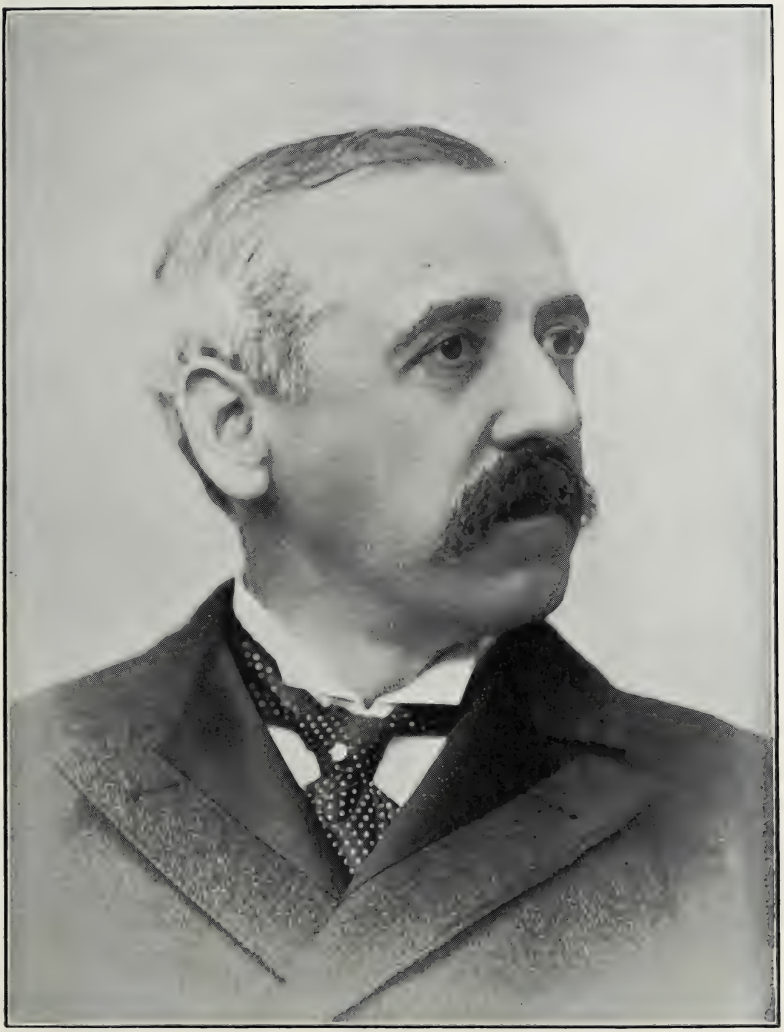
John Stearns, a later ancestor, was born at Lynn, Mass., in 1691, and died at Tolland, March 10, 1787, and his son, John, great-grandfather of Ratcliffe Hicks was born in Tolland, January 11, 1736. He was a physician and practiced most of his life at Wilbraham, Mass., where his children were born. He returned to Tolland on account of his sympathy with the Shay Rebellion and died in 1788. His wife, left a widow with two sons and three daughters, carried on her husband's business, traveling many miles daily on horseback and was thus enabled to send her sons to Yale College. One of them, Dr. John Stearns became a noted practitioner in New York City and the first president of the New England society. His brother, Judge Elisha Stearns, grandfather of our subject, was born July 12, 1776, at Wilbraham, Mass., but early in life removed to Tolland where he died in 1850. He was a man of much prominence and a valued resident of that town, than whom no man was held in higher esteem in the locality where he lived.

Ratcliffe Hicks, paternal grandfather of Mr. Hicks, and for whom he was named, was a distinguished

sea-captain and in his day was called "one of New England's bravest, most daring, and ablest"; whose voyages took him to every part of the globe and whose life was tempestuous, but successful and who left behind him a name which his grandson has ever cherished with ardent love and infinite respect. He was a native of Providence, R. I.; was born June 14, 1784, and died October 26, 1846.

Charles R. Hicks, father of the subject, was born in Providence, R. I., July 1, 1812, and was educated at Plainfield, Conn., where at that time was one of the best seminaries of the state. He, afterwards, and when quite young, engaged in the dry goods trade in Providence and, becoming a prominent merchant, later continued in the same business in New York City, retiring from active business in 1842, when he removed to Tolland and spent his last years. He died July 29, 1878. From his father, Ratcliffe Hicks inherited many of his intellectual attainments; and that he has won fame and fortune as a lawyer, manufacturer, business man and legislator has been natural.

Ratcliffe Hicks secured his early education at home and prepared for college at Monson Academy. He entered Brown University in 1860 and graduated with high honors with the degree of A. B. in 1864. "From his earliest youth he became an omnivorous and careful reader and the law and sciences of all ages were to him, and are now, what many forms of amusement are to the ordinary young man," states one of his biographers. While at Brown University he was one of the founders of the Delta Upsilon Chapter, of which he is still a member and to which he has ever been a generous contributor. Early in life he began to take a prominent lead in school and college debates; and at the commencement exercises, was one of the orators of his graduating class. After leaving college he began the study of law in the office of Judge Loren P. Waldo, which study he pursued only during his leisure hours, and taught school. Admitted to the bar in 1866, he immediately removed to Meriden and began the practice of his profession as the law partner of the late Hon. O. H. Platt, which partnership continued until 1869, after which Mr. Hicks continued alone until 1882. His natural ability, keen foresight and remarkable judgment, coupled with his self-confidence and sanguine disposition, the result of his success in important cases, made him a familiar figure in the higher courts. He was ever well versed in law for he never ceased his study of his chosen profession. His ability as a pleader was remarkable; and his name is found in every volume of the Connecticut Report from 1866 to 1879. While practicing he received large fees and his income in Meriden averaged over $10,000 a year. From 1869 to 1874 he served Meriden as city attorney and from 1873 to 1876 was New Haven county attorney. His public service, however, began in 1886 by his election



Ratcliffe Hicks

to the state legislature from Tolland, when as the youngest member of the house, during his first term of service, he attracted general attention, not only by his activity on the floor, but by the exhibition of rare and mature judgment for one of his years. During his second term, his speeches as a legislator were forceful and of brilliant diction and won him the admiration of the members on both sides of the house; although he was most loyal to the Democratic party, of which he has ever been a staunch and, in late years, a prominent factor, his manly and eloquent presentation of his convictions secured him also the respect and admiration of the Republicans. His breadth of mind and keen sense of fairness were ever apparent, and it was his special delight to debate on questions which rose above party politics. He once stated on the floor of the house that he preferred to stand where the old Romans stood and to do right though the heavens fell. In 1891 he was again a member of the state legislature, as chairman of the committee on Woman Suffrage which reported the bill giving women the right to vote on school matters. During his entire and valued service in the legislature, and which was continued until 1895, he introduced many bills of vast import to the people of the commonwealth and he usually accomplished as much if not more than any other member. His prominence in public life has kept him well before the eye of the public; and he has been prominently mentioned in the past, for both lieutenant governor and governor of the state of Connecticut.

In 1882 Mr. Hicks became interested in the Canfield Rubber Company as its president, and which, under his sagacious business head, has grown from a concern of $10,000 capital to one whose capital stock is a quarter of a million; whose surplus is as much more and whose sales are considerably in excess of $1,000,000 a year. The success of the company has been spoken of as "one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of New England manufacturing"; for the business has not only been the means of making a substantial fortune for Mr. Hicks, but for other prominent stockholders whose holdings he has gradually purchased until he has become the sole owner of the vast enterprise. Mr. Hicks is also the owner of the Hicks Realty Company, of Bridgeport, and under this title owns considerable real estate in Meriden, Bridgeport and New York. Mr. Hicks has always remained loyal to his native state and, since leaving Meriden, claims Tolland as his residence. He has also a fine house in New York City and a comfortable country place at Lakewood, New Jersey, but he still retains his fond interest in Meriden where he made his success in professional life. He has contributed liberally of his means to objects of benefit to his former townsmen; and in recent years defrayed the expense, with others, in restoring and modernizing the Congregational

Church, in Tolland, where his grandfather was also a liberal contributor.

He has also established annual prizes for public speaking at Brown University, Providence; Storrs Agricultural College, Mansfield, Tolland County, and at the Meriden High School, all of which have inspired, in a greater measure, the ambition of students. Mr. Hicks has traveled extensively in this country and Europe and has crossed the Atlantic more than fifty times. He is the author of the book "Observations," published in 1889, and during its composition, he has been pleased to state has "Helped him while away hours that otherwise may have been lonely" and in which he presents "the off-hand utterances of a man who for twenty-five years was deeply absorbed in business cares, and who has jotted down the observations for his own amusement and occupation." It is needless to state that this book is well considered by litterateurs as one of the most entertaining publications on Europe by an American author. He is also the author of a book on California, equally interesting and instructive to the reader.

Mr. Hicks was married to Lizzie Canfield, now deceased, and has one daughter.

RUFUS HALL.

Rufus Hall, for over forty years a valued resident and leading merchant of Meriden, and whose useful life ended February 3, 1901, was born in Middlefield, October 3, 1839.

A direct descendant of John Hall, Boston 1633, New Haven 1637, one of the original proprietors of the town of Wallingford in 1670, a signer of the original "Covenant" or original agreement of the first planters of Wallingford, as were two of his sons, Samuel and Sergeant Thomas, whose marriage to Grace Walker Watson June 5, 1673, was the first marriage in Wallingford. The following ancestors of Rufus Hall were also signers of the "Covenant": Lieut. John Peck, Sergeant Abraham Doolittle and John Mosse.

He was the youngest of the four children born to Harley Hall [the fifth in descent from John] and Martha Cone Hall. His mother, a native of East Haddam, born April 3, 1805, and died in Meriden April 20, 1880, was directly descended from that John Hall who was one of the first proprietors of Middletown in 1650 and who, coming to this country from England, settled in Boston in 1633. She was a granddaughter of Sylvanus Cone, a Revolutionary soldier.

Rufus Hall, as a boy, during his attendance at the Middlefield district school, assisted in the work about his father's farm. He left home at the age of nineteen and engaged in the meat business, first at Portland, Conn., later in Middlefield, afterwards at Wallingford, and finally in 1860 came to Meriden and clerked for I. H. Hall & Co. in the old Franklin Hall building up town. The next

year he engaged in the grocery trade with his brother under the firm name of N. C. Hall & Co. His honorable dealings and energy won him the confidence of the townspeople, and his good name, thus early established, he maintained throughout his life.

In 1870 he sold out his interest in the grocery store and engaged in the meat business, in partnership with Charles Grether, under the firm name of Grether & Hall, later buying out Grether, and after a long period of success he sold out to his former partner, and again became associated with his brother in the grocery trade. In 1884, however, he again engaged in the meat business, which he conducted with uninterrupted success until he was stricken with pneumonia and died at the age of sixty-one, after which his well established business was conducted by his son, Eugene A. Hall, the present treasurer of the Town of Meriden.

Mr. Hall, on April 2, 1859, married Esther Asenath Grover, to whom two children were born: Effie Maria, born March 13, 1860 and died March 1, 1862, and Eugene Ashley Hall, above mentioned. The wife of Rufus Hall was born in Middletown, January 2, 1837, and died in Meriden, December 18, 1891. She was a daughter of Arden and Sarah Maria (Clark) Grover, her father being a son of Oliver and Asenath (Eaton) Grover. Her grandfather, Daniel Clark, served as a soldier in the Revolution. The wife of Rufus Hall was also descended from William Eaton, who settled in Watertown, Mass., in 1642, and from Thomas Flint, who located in Salem in 1650.

Rufus Hall, who, with his wife, is buried at Indian Hill cemetery, Middletown, was a man who held the unlimited confidence, respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen to a remarkable extent. His genial disposition made him the typical merchant with whom customers found pleasure in trading. He was always deeply concerned in local affairs and never refused his influence in matters of benefit either to his neighbors or the town. His loss to the ranks of the business men of Meriden will be long remembered.

EUGENE ASHLEY HALL.

Eugene A. Hall, a prominent merchant and treasurer of the town of Meriden, is a life-long resident of the town. He is the only son of Rufus and Esther Asenath (Grover) Hall. He is a worthy descendant of sturdy, reliable New England ancestry. He was born in Meriden August 7, 1865, attended the old Corner district school until at the age of fifteen he left school to begin his own career and has succeeded in earning his own living ever since; was first with J. Cook & Co., manufacturers of printing presses, cards, etc.; a short time on a drop press at Bradley & Hubbard's; then one year in William Hagadon's news, fruit and toy store, clerking and delivering newspapers, and one year in castor bottle department, Meriden

Britannia Co., until May, 1883, when he entered the employ of the Meriden Savings Bank as office boy.

After an honorable connection of eighteen years with that institution, and after the sudden and regretted decease of his father, he resigned his position as teller and assumed control of his father's business, for many years known as Hall's Cash Market, and which he has since continued with increasing success.

He is a trustee, director and auditor of the Meriden Savings Bank; for several years was a member of the board of trustees and secretary and treasurer of the Connecticut School for Boys; is treasurer of the Connecticut State and the Meriden Agricultural societies; treasurer of the Town of Meriden, which office he has filled most acceptably since 1899; is a director and first vice president of the Meriden Board of Trade; director and treasurer of the Meriden Times Publishing Co., publishers of *The Evening Times.*

Mr. Hall is a prominent figure in Masonic circles and is connected with no other fraternity. He is a past master and present treasurer of Meridian lodge, No. 77, A. F. & A. M.; a past high priest of Keystone Chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; P. T. I. master of Hamilton Council, No. 22, R. & S. M., and a past eminent commander of St Elmo Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar; a thirty-second degree Mason, being a member of the New Haven and Bridgeport bodies of Scottish Rite; is an officer in the following Masonic grand bodies of Connecticut, Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery, an honorary life member of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, and a member of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Bridgeport.

He was married December 15, 1897, to Edna Adele Mix, daughter of ex-Senator John Walter and Kate Urana (Wallace) Mix, of (Yalesville) Wallingford. John Walter Mix, United States collector of customs of the port of New Haven at the time of his death, was a direct descendant of Thomas Mix, of New Haven, 1643, and three of his ancestors, Daniel Mix, Robert Roice and John Hall, were original proprietors of Wallingford. His widow, Kate Urana Wallace, is a daughter of Franklin and Fanny (Hall) Wallace, the latter a daughter of Lyman and Milla Hall, both direct descendants of John Hall, the original proprietor of Wallingford. Benjamin Hall, father of Lyman, was a soldier in the Revolution.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall have three children: Fanny, born November 15, 1898; Edna, born February 3, 1900, and Eugene Mix, born June 27, 1903.

Mr. Hall is known as one of the more progressive merchants, who possesses a wide experience in matters of finance and who has been much honored by elections to various offices, all of which he has filled with credit, not only to himself but to those who have safely placed their confidence in his ability and honesty to carry out the duties devolving upon him.



RUFUS HALL.



EUGENE ASHLEY HALL.

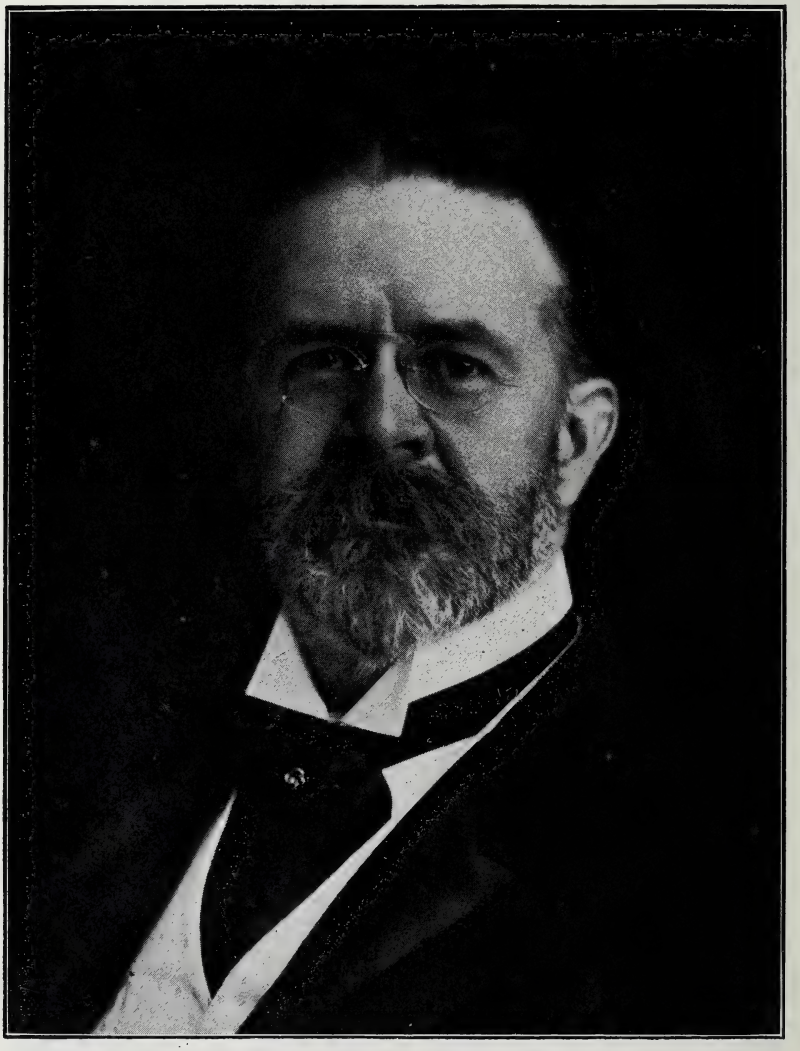


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

W. H. Bigelow



RESIDENCE OF W. H. BIGELOW.

W. H. BIGELOW.

William Henry Bigelow, now an influential resident of Meriden, was born in Westminster, Mass., in January, 1853. He was an only child and his parents were Benson and Charlotte (Rice) Bigelow. His family is an old one in that town and the original Bigelow homestead has been in their possession for many generations. The subject of this biography is descended on both the paternal and maternal sides from early colonial ancestry and on the mother's side his progenitors served in the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Bigelow obtained his early education at the common schools and finished at the Westminster Academy, which has since been destroyed by fire. He has traveled considerably both in this country and Europe and has acquired a higher education through his travels, in which he has come in contact with many people. He is a close observer of men and customs. Mr. Bigelow has also had a varied experience in business. For several years he was located in Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and later in Hartford. For the past twelve years, however, he has resided in Meriden.

In 1895 he was united in marriage with Emma Norton, daughter of the late C. L. and Amanda (Norton) Strong, and has since resided in the Strong family residence on Cook avenue. Mrs. Bigelow died July 13, 1905, after a lingering illness of a year. Before her death and with her Mr. Bigelow spent much time in travel and visited Europe, Cuba, Bermuda Islands and the Canadas, as well as the south and west of his own country. In his travels he has collected many relics which now adorn his home. Mr. Bigelow is far from being a disinterested resident of Meriden; for he is deeply concerned in all that tends to benefit and improve the locality either in business or social life. He is a member of Washington Lodge, No. 15, Knights of Pythias, of Hartford.

COL. CHAS. LESLIE UPHAM.

Colonel Charles Leslie Upham, by birth a Vermonter, was born in Townshend May 24, 1839. His parents were Rev. William Dennis Upham, a graduate of Brown University, and Lucy McKenzie Spink, a native of the old town of Wickford, R. I., situated on Narragansett Bay.

The Spinks were Norman-French and distinguished for bravery. They went to England with William the Conqueror. The Upham ancestry has been traced to Richard Upham, of Bicton, Dover, England, 1583.

John Upham was the pioneer and only Upham who emigrated to this country, having come to Wessaguscus, now Weymouth, Mass., with the Hull colony in 1635. His wife was Elizabeth Slade.

Lieutenant Phineas Upham was their only son who left posterity. He won distinction in the Indian Wars



C. Allpham.

and at the storming of Ft. Canonicus, sometimes called the Great Swamp fight, was mortally wounded and died soon afterward.

Colonel Upham's great-grandfather was William Upham, who was in 1776 one of the Committee of Safety in Vermont and captain of a company which did service in the field during Burgoyne's invasion.

Colonel Upham was educated at the Leland and Gray Academy at Townshend, and at the age of sixteen came to Meriden to enter the employ of Ives Brothers. Having a taste for the sea, in 1858 he went before the mast in a voyage that circumnavigated the globe, touching at Australia and the west coast of South America, in all an absence of over a year.

Upon his return he re-entered the employ of Ives Brothers and remained with them until the commencement of the Civil War, when he at once enlisted in Rifle Co. B, 3d Regiment, Conn. Vols., as first sergeant. This regiment was in Keyes' Brigade, Tyler's Division, and was engaged at the Battle of Bull Run, Sergeant Upham commanding his company, owing to the absence of his superior officers.

Upon being mustered out August 12, 1861, he immediately raised a company for three years' service, of which he was appointed captain, and joined the 8th Conn. Infantry as Company K. He served with this regiment as captain, major and lieutenant colonel until April 6, 1863, when he was appointed colonel of the 15th Regiment, Conn. Infantry, commanding the same until the close of the war. His service record was: With McDowell's Army at the Battle of Bull Run July 3, 1861; The Burnside Expedition and battles of Roanoke Island Feb. 7, and New Berne March 14, 1862, where he was severely wounded; in the Army of the Potomac, "9th Corps," at the battles of South Mountain Sept. 14, Antietam Sept. 17, and Fredericksburg Dec. 13, 1862. At Fredericksburg he was in command of the 16th Regiment Conn. Infantry, its field officers being either sick or wounded; with General Peck's command on the so-called Blackberry Raid to the north of Richmond; at the Siege of Suffolk by Longstreet, including the engagements on the Edenton Road April 24, and Providence Church Road May 3, 1863; with his regiment while on provost duty at New Berne, N. C., in the summer of 1864 during the deadly epidemic of yellow fever; in command of a brigade of Scofield's column in the advance from New Berne including the actions before Kingston March 8 to 11, 1865; mustered out at the close of the war, reaching home July 4, 1865.

In September, 1865, the firm of Ives, Upham & Rand was organized, the partners being John Ives, C. L. Upham and P. C. Rand. Mr. Ives was already a merchant of long standing and high reputation. Messrs. Upham and Rand had been in his employ prior to 1861 and had served together during the war. This firm is one of the most prominent in its

line, with the unusual record of more than forty years without a change of personnel.

Colonel Upham's civil record is: Member of the first common council upon the organization of Meriden as a city; two terms as mayor, 1873 and 1874; a trustee of Connecticut School for Boys from 1877 to 1891, also serving as treasurer, and at the present writing a police commissioner and a member of town school committee. He has also at different times served as president of the Board of Trade and of the Business Men's Association.

Colonel Upham married first Emily Clark who died August 26, 1864, leaving a daughter Emily. On July 12, 1877, he married Elizabeth H. Hall, daughter of B. Kirtland Hall and Emily M. Curtis. Among Mrs. Upham's ancestors are included the names of Hall, Cook, Atwater, Andrews, Curtis, Ives, Royce and Hough, all prominent in the first settlement of Wallingford and Meriden. The children of this marriage are: William Hall, Lucy Curtis, who died in infancy, Charles Leslie, Francis Curtis and Elizabeth.

SETH JACOB HALL.

A long and honorable business career, amply crowned with success, combined with the election to many offices of public trust, is that of Seth Jacob Hall. He is the eldest son of Sylvester and Rosetta (Johnson) Hall and was born September 4, 1829, at Middletown. He is descended in a direct line from John Hall, born in England in 1605, one of the early settlers of Wallingford, where he died in 1676. The Hall family is one of the oldest, largest and most influential in this part of the state.

He attended the common schools and Moore's select school. After obtaining his education he worked on a farm until twenty-one years of age and for nine consecutive winters taught district school in the vicinity of Middletown. He also worked at the factories of Jesse G. Baldwin and Charles Parker as a burnisher, and in 1857 entered the crockery and hardware store of Harrison W. Curtis. His employer's business being dull, Mr. Hall taught school the following winter but returned to the store in the spring where he remained until 1861; when he started in the flour and grain business in which he has in later years been assisted by his sons, John B. and Silas B. Later, for a little over two years, Mr. Hall was a member of the firm of I. C. Lewis & Co., which firm was formerly I. C. Lewis & Bro. He retired from that firm in 1863 and has since conducted a successful grain, feed and coal business alone, his store at the "Corner" being one of the old landmarks of Meriden. Few men of the town have been more successful in business than Mr. Hall, for by careful methods he has built up a large trade and has also made several profitable investments in real estate.

Besides being a prominent figure



S. J. Hall

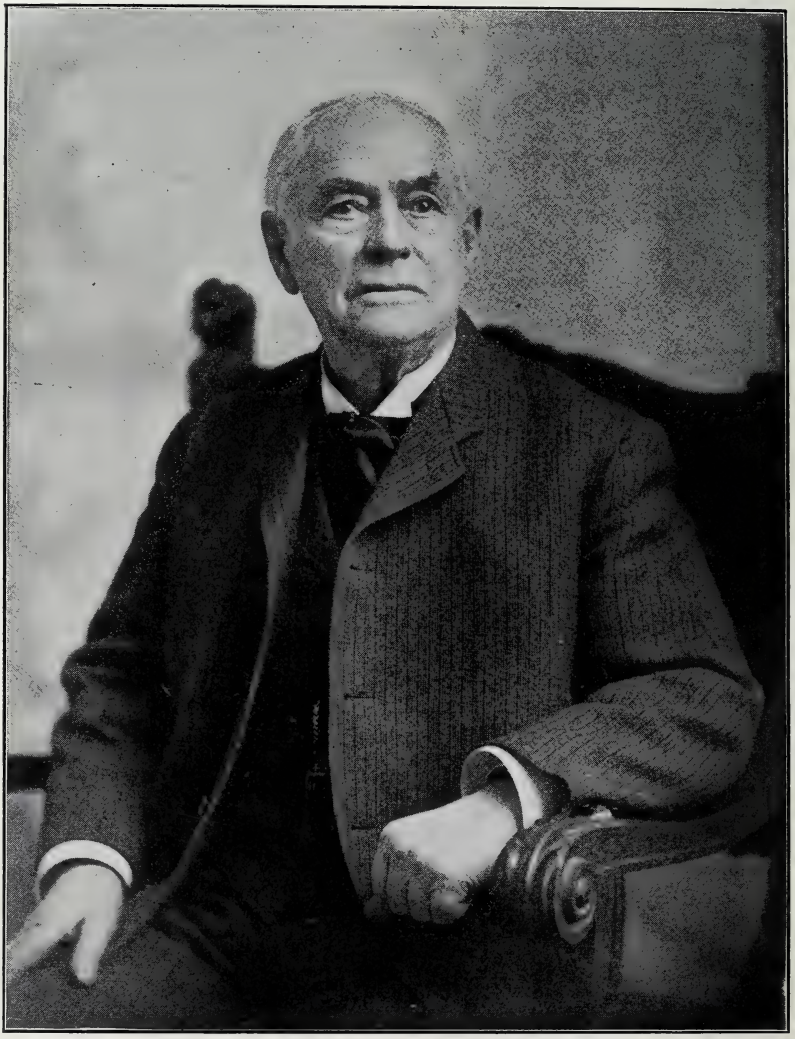
in the business life of the town he has been much in the public eye. A lifelong Democrat, he served his ward in both branches of the city government and the town as treasurer, selectman and member of the board of relief. From 1890 to 1894 he served in the Connecticut State Senate, reflecting credit on the sixth district which he ably represented. Since the inauguration of the Meriden hospital he has been consecutively elected one of the trustees and has also served as treasurer of the corporation. He was formerly one of the directors of the Middlesex County National Bank and is at present one of the directors of the Meriden National Bank and vice president of the City Savings Bank. He was for many years trustee and treasurer of the Connecticut School for Boys. For nearly twenty years he has been one of the deacons of the First Baptist church of which corporation he is also one of the trustees. He has served both as treasurer and trustee of the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Hall was married October 14, 1869, to Lois Blakeslee, who was born January 24, 1833, and is a daughter of Silas and Esther (Buel) Blakeslee, of Wallingford. Their children are as follows: John Blakeslee, born September 6, 1861, married December 16, 1895, Jennie Holcomb, daughter of Bertrand and Chloe (Holcomb) Yale, and they reside with their children on Broad street, Meriden; Judson Sylvester, born March 30, 1866; Silas Blakeslee, born March 28, 1869, married November 25, 1903, to Alida Baker, daughter of Dr. Rufus Baker, of Middletown; and Esther Rosetta, born July 24, 1880. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Hall is one of the finest in Meriden, having been erected in 1891, and is situated on East Main street.

NATHAN FOWLER GRISWOLD.

Nathan Fowler Griswold, president of the Griswold, Richmond & Glock Company, comes of one of the oldest families in New England and the line may be traced unbroken to Humphrey Griswold, a "lord of the manor," who lived in England in the sixteenth century. Martin, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in the old Griswold homestead in Killingworth, where he married Miss Sally Fowler, daughter of Nathan and Chloe (Davis) Fowler.

Nathan Griswold was born at Lockport, N. Y., and his mother dying after his birth, he was taken to Durham, Conn., and placed in the care of his grandparents, where he remained until six years old, when his father again married and he again came under the parental roof, where he lived until he was eleven years of age and attended a private school. At the age of eleven, after working on a farm one season, he was employed in the store of Urial Ayers, of East Haddam, and he first began to learn his trade of tinsmith. He came to Meriden afterwards and entered the employ of Pomeroy & Ives, remaining four years at his trade as an appren-



A. F. Gunnold

tice, but honorably purchased the last few months of his apprenticeship and went to Cincinnati, where he worked at his trade for three years, when he again removed to Holyoke, Mass., and first started in business for himself. At the end of two years he again returned to Meriden and bought out the manufacturing business of his former employers, giving as payment several hundred dollars due him as wages, and the balance in notes, with interest at six per cent. These notes he met when due, and continued the business successfully for ten years. He then disposed of the factory to Charles Parker and others and engaged in the jobbing business at the corner of West Main and Hanover streets. He afterwards took in as a partner, George F. Searles, whom he afterwards bought out, and later Henry J. Lewis, son of the late Isaac C. Lewis, became his partner, under the style of Griswold & Lewis. In 1876, Charles C. Glock, a former valued employe, was taken into the firm, which afterwards became Griswold, Lewis & Glock. John L. Richmond purchased Mr. Lewis' interest in the firm which afterwards became Griswold, Richmond & Glock, and in 1889 at Mr. Griswold's suggestion, about a dozen of the employes were given an interest in the business as an inducement for meritorious service and the firm was made into a corporation with a capital of $50,000, under the name of Griswold, Richmond & Glock Co-operative Co. Some time after the death of Mr. Richmond his interest held by his widow was purchased January 10, 1905, for a large sum, after which the business again became a co-operative concern on the same lines as originally agreed when the company was first formed.

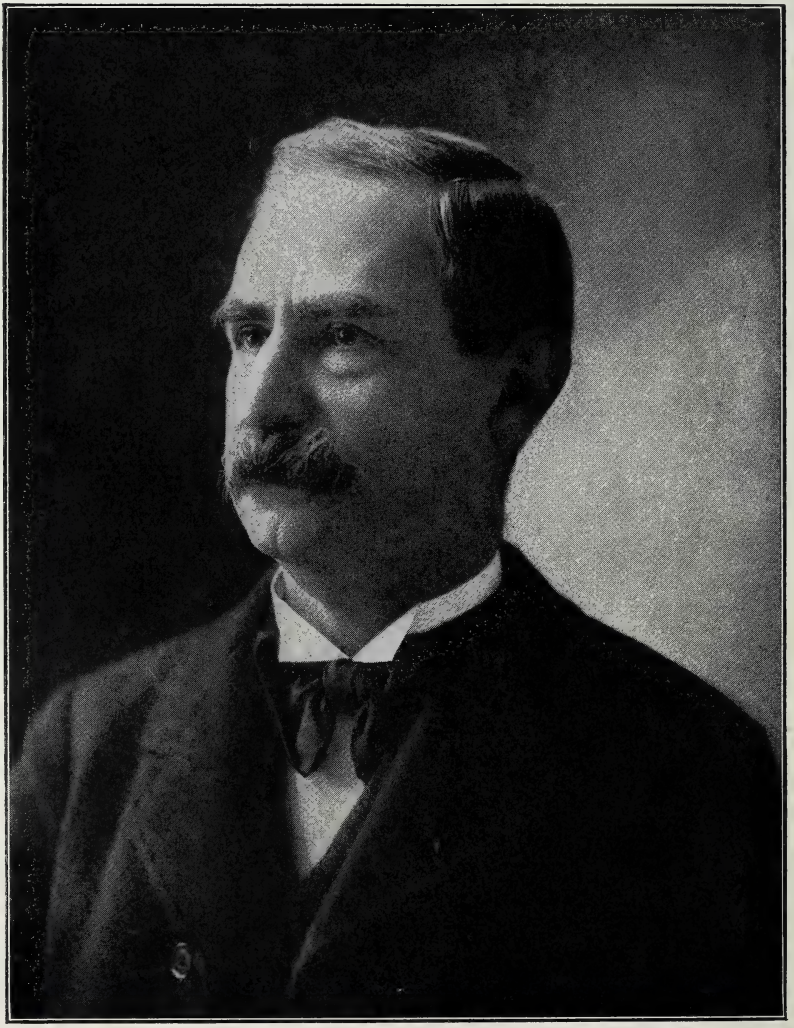
In his religious views Mr. Griswold declares himself to be an agnostic, refusing to believe that which does not appeal to his reason.

Mr. Griswold was married in Meriden to Eliza Williams. To them were born these children: Ella A., who married Eugene H. Ray, superintendent of the Silver City Plate Company; Charles, who died in early manhood; Frank, who died while a resident of Chicago, and Lewis F., designer for the Charles Parker Company. After his wife's death Mr. Griswold married Mira Rockwell, a daughter of Samuel Rockwell. Mrs. Griswold presides over her beautiful home on Lincoln street with grace and tact and is prominent in the social and philanthropic life of Meriden.

GEORGE W. MILLER.

George W. Miller, first selectman of the town, was born October 13, 1838, in Ramapo, Rockland county, N. Y. At the age of twelve years he went with his parents to live in Chicopee Falls, Mass., where he attended school until sixteen years of age.

He then went to work for the Massachusetts Arms Co. on guns and pistols, learning there the trade of a tool maker.



J. W. Miller

In 1862 he removed to Meriden where he has since resided and in the latter part of that year went to work for Parker, Snow, Brooks & Co., a concern engaged in manufacturing Springfield rifles for the U. S. government. Mr. Miller was first a tool maker and afterwards a contractor, having charge of getting out the locks for the rifles. He remained in this business until 1868, when in company with his brother, William H. Miller, he started in the manufacture of pocket cutlery. From this business grew the Miller Bros. Cutlery Co. and with it he continued until 1878. Mr. Miller then withdrew his interests and started a factory at the corner of George and Mechanic streets where he made pocket knives and novelties until 1899.

Mr. Miller served as councilman in the city government during the years 1869, 1877 and 1879; was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue in 1890, serving in this capacity four years.

In 1894 he was appointed superintendent of the Meriden water department, and during his administration of four years the storage reservoir "Hallmere," holding about 140,000,000 gallons, was constructed. In 1882, Mr. Miller was elected first selectman of the town, serving one year. In 1898, Mr. Miller was again elected to this office and has been re-elected annually ever since. His administration has been practical and economical. Evidently the people of Meriden consider him safe and reliable as they have elected him to this responsible office for a longer term than any of his predecessors.

His efforts to secure for Meriden a suitable home for its unfortunate poor were successful. Under his supervision "Cold Spring Home" was constructed, furnished and occupied within one year from the time the citizens were first called together to consider the matter. All bills for this, including the grading of the grounds, were paid from the original appropriation of $40,000 and there was an unexpended balance of over $5,000.00.

This is but one instance of the many that shows his loyalty and devotion to the interests of the town he serves. In these days of graft and mismanagement in many other cities, a faithful public servant should be especially commended in Meriden.

Mr. Miller was one of the charter members of St. Elmo commandery, K. T., with which he is consequently prominently identified. He was married February 4, 1863, to Lydia M. Tucker, of Chicopee Falls. Three sons have been born to them: Horace G. Miller, secretary and treasurer of Union Iron Works, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Lewis A. Miller, secretary of The H. Wales Lines Co., of Meriden, and Max E. Miller, vice president and secretary of The Warner-Miller Co., of New Haven.

DAVID N. CAMP.

David Nelson Camp, A. M., a well-known educator, author and lecturer,

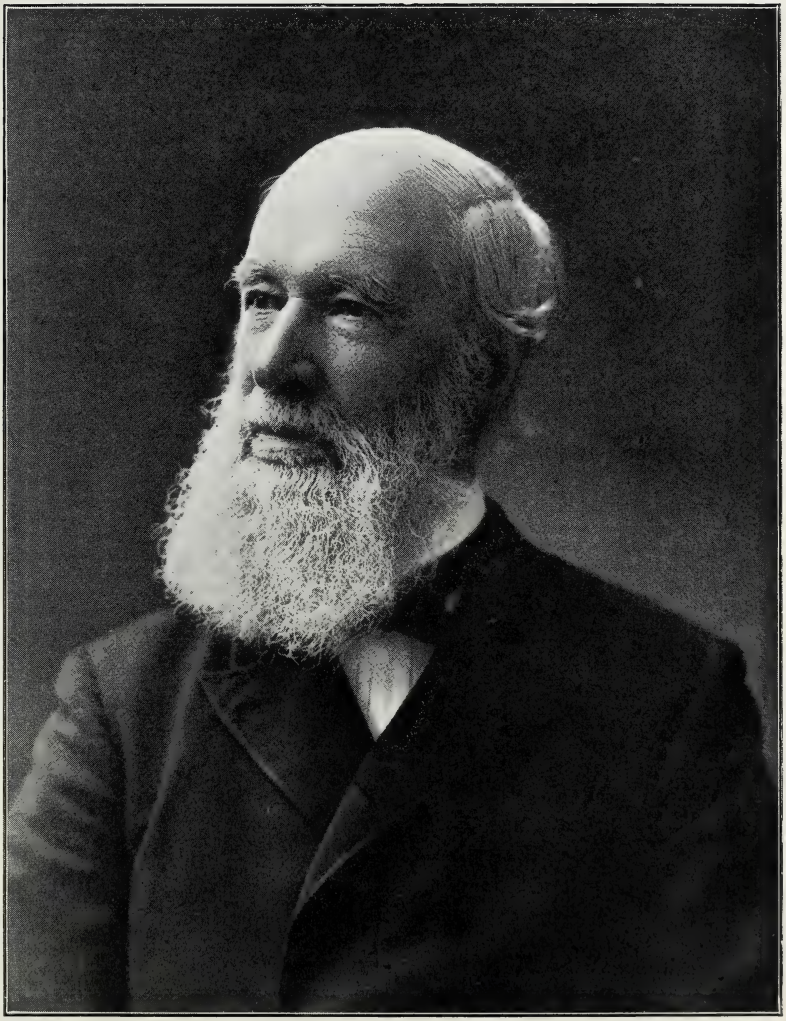
and a former resident and teacher of Meriden, was born in Durham, Middlesex county, Conn., October 3, 1820. He is a son of the late Elah Camp, who during his early life owned a large farm which comprised about one-fifth of the present town of Meriden and through which Camp street now extends. David N. Camp is the seventh in line descended from Nicholas Camp, of Naseby, Eng., whose son, Samuel was one of the first settlers of Milford, Conn. From the last named have descended his son, Nathan, of Durham, the paternal grandfather of the subject.

His mother was Orit (Lee) Camp, a direct lineal descendant of Theophilus Eaton, the first governor of New Haven colony. Prof. Camp received his early education in both public and private schools and after preparing for college, although prevented from taking his course by illness, he continued, studying with private tutors, and received the honorary degree of A. M. from Yale college in 1853. He became a resident of Meriden in 1846, having previously lived here for a few months during the year 1841.

Prof. Camp began teaching in the public schools of Guilford and later taught at Branford and Upper Middletown. From 1848 to 1850 he became one of the instructors at the old Meriden Academy, which then excellent school he left in 1850 to become professor of mathematics, natural and moral philosophy and geography at the Connecticut State Normal school which was opened that year. In 1855 he became associate principal of the State Normal School and also was professor of English (language and literature) and mental philosophy, theory and practice of teaching. He was appointed principal of the State Normal School and also state superintendent of schools in 1857, both of which offices he filled with great benefit to Connecticut until 1865, when on account of ill health, he resigned and went at once abroad.

While engaged in European travel, and during his quest of health, when he visited many of the educational institutions of Great Britain, he was appointed professor at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., and upon his return from Europe assisted in reopening that college after the close of the Civil War. When Henry Barnard LL. D., president of the college, resigned to accept the appointment of commissioner of the National Bureau of Education, Prof. Camp resigned his professorship, then in 1867, and went with Dr. Barnard to Washington, and entered the U. S. educational service; but in 1868 returned to Meriden, upon the death of his father, whose large estate he afterwards settled.

From 1870 to 1880 he again became a professor at a New Britain seminary but since 1880 has devoted his efforts to a broader educational field and as a writer, author, lecturer and member of various educational, scientific, historical and missionary societies, has done as much as any man in the state in educating both young and old.



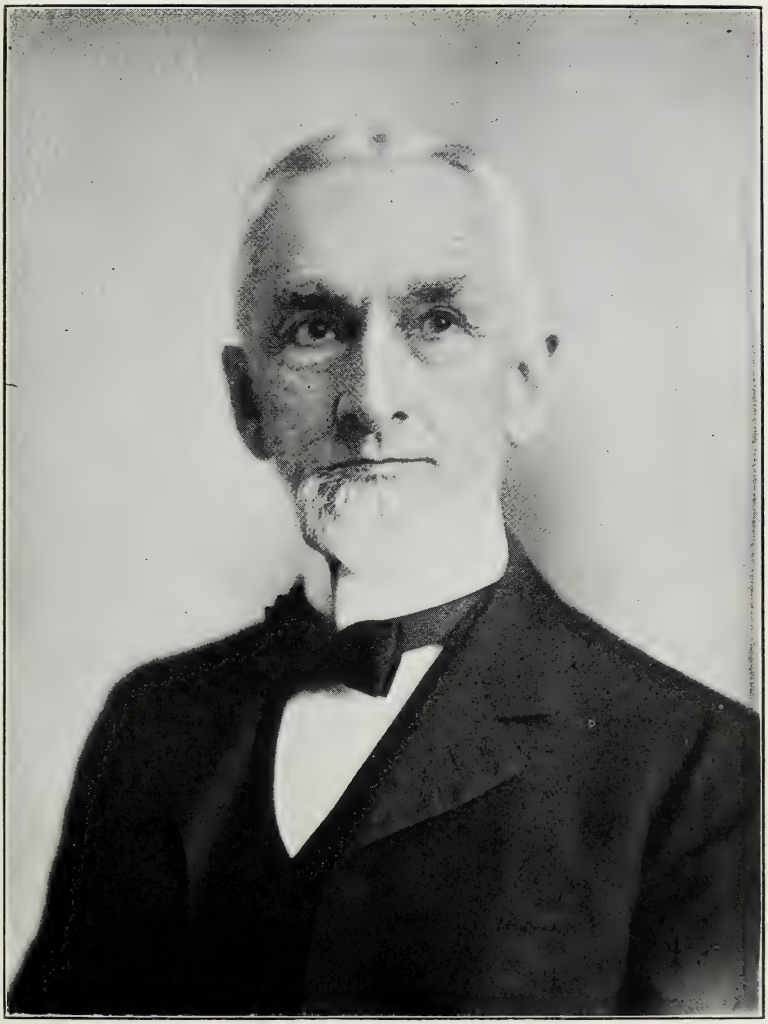
David N. Camp.

He was one of the organizers of the National Council of Education of which he is still a member; has been one of the directors of the Missionary Society of Connecticut since 1875 and of that society was its auditor for fifteen years; and he has been president of the society since 1900; he is also a member of the Connecticut Historical Society, and has appeared on the public platform more than 400 times as a lecturer on educational topics. Prof. Camp is also a prominent figure in financial and manufacturing circles, having since 1874 been a director and since 1883 vice president of the New Britain National bank; president of the Skinner Chuck Mfg. Co. since 1887; of the Atkins Printing Co. from 1875, and a director of several other corporations. His bright career in public life began in 1871 when he became a member of the New Britain common council. The year following he was a member of the board of aldermen, in which body he served four years. He was elected mayor of New Britain and held that office from 1877-79. After his creditable administration as mayor he was chosen a member of the state legislature from New Britain in 1879; and served the year following as chairman of the Committee on Education. He was married June 25, 1844, to Sarah Adaline Howd, and their children have been Ellen R. and Emma Jane Camp.

Prof. Camp enjoys a wide personal acquaintance in Meriden, the home of earlier days, and which has ever been proud to claim him as one of its own.

JOHN IVES.

John Ives, of Meriden, is perhaps the oldest dry goods merchant in Connecticut, having been a proprietor in continuous business either alone or with others since 1847. He was born December 25, 1825, on the old Ives homestead in the southeast district of Meriden, the fifth son of a family of ten children, is a member of the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution, is descended from one of the oldest and most influential families of this vicinity, and is now, with his younger brother, Frederick Wightman Ives, the only survivor of his father's family. His father, Othniel Ives, was twice married; first October 8, 1800, to Sarah Yale and to whom four children were born; she died November 24, 1814. On October 26, 1815, he was again married to Rosetta Yale, sister of his first wife, to whom six children were born. John Ives, the fourth child of the second marriage, was left an orphan at the age of four years, and with an older brother, Othniel, continued to live on the home place until he was sixteen years of age. He then went to live with Squire Eli C. Birdsey whom he had chosen as his guardian. His school education was acquired in the southeastern district and at Post's Academy. Shortly after the death of his guardian, in 1844, he went to New York City, to seek employment which he obtained from Simpson & Benham, a firm engaged in the tin and britannia trade, composed of the late



John Ives

Hon. Samuel Simpson, of Wallingford, and Darius Benham, formerly of Meriden. Later he accepted a position as clerk in the then famous hat store of Leary & Co., located under the old Astor House in New York City, where his brother, Isaac I., was formerly employed, and a concern in which his Ives relatives were financially interested. Two years later, upon the advice of his brother-in-law, Eli Butler, he went to Alabama, where the latter conducted a general store in Perry county, and where Mr. Ives remained until 1847. He then returned to Meriden and engaged in the dry goods business in the store formerly carried on by Squire Birdsey and in partnership with Linus Birdsey, under the style of Birdsey & Ives. In 1853 the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Ives built a new store on Broad street, in which, with his brother, Russell Ives, as Ives Brothers, and afterward alone, he continued business until 1865. In that year when Colonel C. L. Upham and Lieutenant Philip C. Rand, who had previously been clerks for Mr. Ives, returned from their service in the Civil war, Mr. Ives with them both as partners, formed the well known dry goods firm of Ives, Upham & Rand. The firm continued on Broad street and also opened another store on Colony street, in the location now occupied by Howard Bros., which was then known as West Meriden. Both of these stores were carried on for some years and until the up-town store on Broad street was finally disposed of. The firm gradually outgrew their first Colony street location, and upon the completion of the Winthrop Hotel block, in 1883, they removed thereto and have retained that location, which, although extensively enlarged, was then thought to be amply spacious for many years to come. In addition to looking after his mercantile business, Mr. Ives served efficiently as town clerk of Meriden from 1854 to 1865, when he declined longer to serve in that office. He has continuously been one of the directors of the Meriden National bank since 1863; was one of the founders of the Meriden Cemetery Association, owners of the Walnut Grove cemetery, and from its organization in 1875 has held the offices of director, secretary and treasurer of that corporation. From 1853 he has been a member of the First Baptist church. In politics, while he was born and raised a Democrat of the old school, he has been identified with the Republican party since the strong pro-slavery demonstrations of 1858-9, to which he was strongly opposed. Mr. Ives was married first to Alina, daughter of the late Eli C. Birdsey in 1847; she died in 1856. He was again married December 5, 1858, to Wealthy Sage Merwin, of Durham, Conn., and to whom two children were born: Leland Howard, associated in business with his father, and Harriet W., wife of Judge James P. Platt, of Meriden. Mr. Ives' residence on Broad street comprises the buiding erected and many years oc-

cupied by him as a store but in after years remodeled for residence purposes.

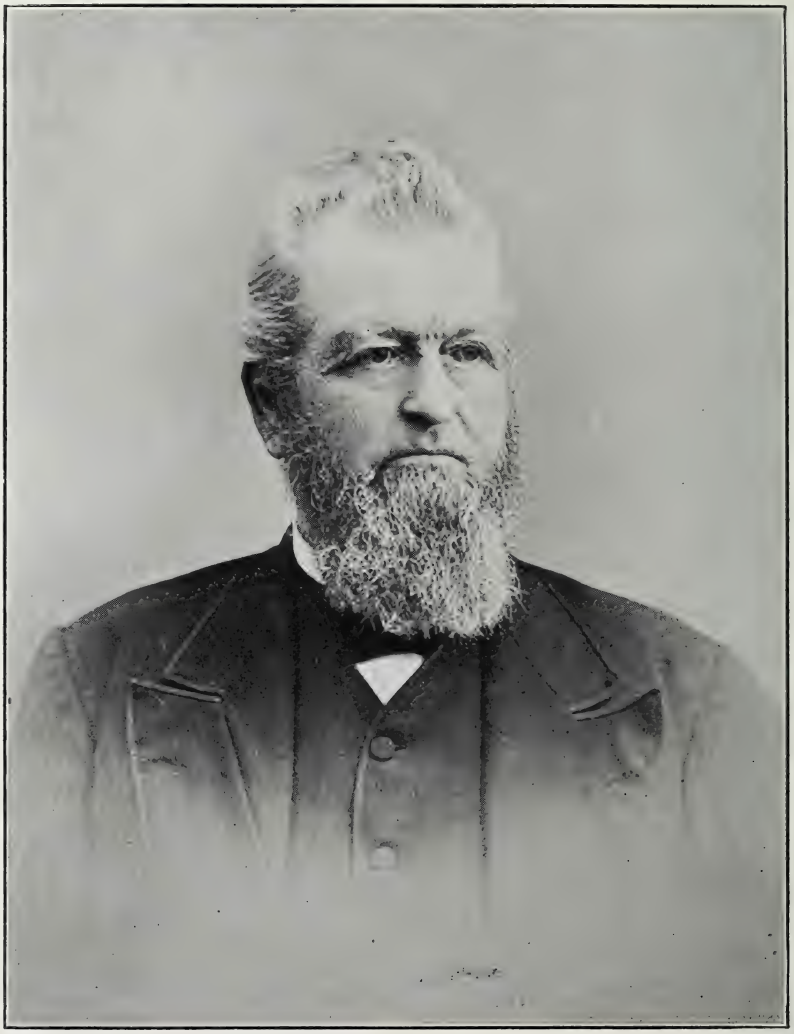
WILLIAM JACKSON IVES.

Perhaps no deceased resident of Meriden left behind him to a fuller extent the respect of the community than William Jackson Ives. He was born in Meriden July 28, 1815, and was a worthy representative of one of the oldest families in this vicinity. Watrous Ives, son of Amasa and Rebecca Ives who September 15, 1809, married Polly Yale and had ten children, William Jackson Ives being the third.

He was brought up on the old Ives farm, attended the district school, and as a young man drove a peddler's team from Meriden to the Southern states and sold the goods made by the then small factory of Charles Parker which was conducted under the name of Parker & White, and being considered an extra good salesman, his services were highly appreciated by the concern. He afterwards became a manufacturer, engaging in making suspender webbing in East Meriden, but his factory was destroyed by fire, and he afterwards opened a general store at Benton, Ala. This store was conducted with remarkable profit to himself and later with his two partners, who consisted of his brother Stephen and his bookkeeper, William Sayre. After the partnership was formed he spent much of his time in the North buying goods for the store and still continued to carry on his farm in Meriden. The Civil War made many poor debtors of their customers, composed of large plantation owners of the South; and the firm on account of this, sustained a great pecuniary loss, including a large store and warehouse, none of which was recovered by Mr. Ives. After the town had been burnt by the Union armies he returned to Meriden, abandoning his interests in the South and remained here the balance of his life.

At his well cultivated farm he raised many valuable horses which occupation was very congenial to him; as he was not only a great lover of well bred animals but understood thoroughly their successful raising. As a stock farmer he was no less fortunate than in any other of his undertakings; and many were the valuable specimens of the equine race which he sold at handsome figures.

Mr. Ives was widely respected by his fellow townsmen and a man who held to the fullest extent their confidence. During his life he settled many estates, and he seems to have been a most natural personage for others to go to for advice in business and other matters. He was generous to the worthy poor, public spirited and very considerate of his neighbors by whom he was highly regarded. An active member of the First Baptist church, he took a deep interest in the welfare of that society. He was a Democrat in his political sympathies. He served in both branches of the





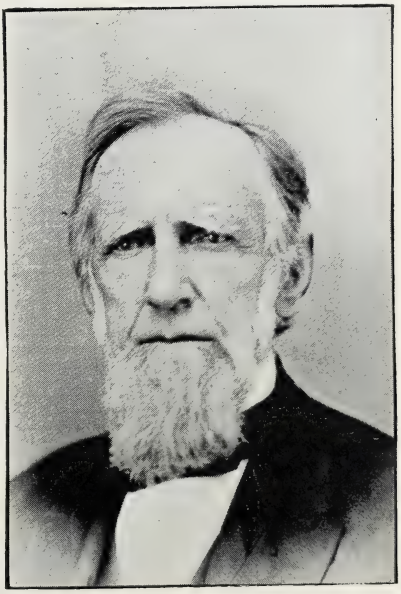
city government and April 2, 1850, was elected a representative to serve Meriden in the state legislature.

He was married September 1, 1841, to Lucy Julia Birdsey, daughter of Gershom and Lucy (Coe) Birdsey, and their children were as follows: William Birdsey, born October 27, 1843; Ellena Lucy, born March 24, 1847, deceased; Elizabeth and Carrie, both of whom died in infancy, and George W., born August 8, 1861, and died April 17, 1889. William B. Ives, an influential man of affairs, and from his birth a resident of Meriden, is the only one surviving. William Jackson Ives, his father, and the subject of this sketch, died at his home in Meriden May 16, 1887, and was buried in the East cemetery.

BENJAMIN H. CATLIN, M. D.

Benjamin Hopkins Catlin, M. D. (deceased), eldest son of Benjamin and Rhoda (Catlin) Catlin, was born August 10, 1801, in the town of Harwinton, Litchfield county, Conn. Dr. Catlin came of a long line of distinguished ancestry, one de Catlin having been a follower of William the Conqueror, and the first American ancestor having come to Hartford in 1632, where he and his son were very prominent in colonial affairs.

Dr. Catlin had more than the usual educational advantages of a country boy of his day, the district school work being followed by study at an academy in his native town under the tuition of the Rev. Luther Hart, and medical training under several prominent physicians, and at Yale, where he was graduated March 4, 1825. On July 12 of the same year he opened an office at Haddam, Conn., filling a vacancy made by the death of Dr. Andrew Warner. He soon had a large practice and remained over sixteen years. Then, at the request of some of the leading citizens of Meri-



BENJAMIN H. CATLIN, M. D.

den, he came to this city to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Wyllis Woodruff. His fee in his early practice was but fifty cents. He practiced during the latter period of Dr. Hough, with whom he held consultations in serious cases, and who extended him not only all the usual courtesies of the profession but

a warm personal friendship as well.

Dr. Catlin was early elected a Fellow of the Connecticut Medical Society. In 1854 he was elected vice-president of the society, re-elected in 1855, appointed president in 1856, and elected in 1857. In 1840 he was given the honorary degree of M. D. by Yale. He was always very active in both state and national medical circles, being a prominent member of the American Medical Association from 1853 until his death, and often attending its annual meetings as delegate from the state society. In 1860 he was elected an honorary member of the New York Medical Society, and in 1869 a corresponding member of the Gynaecological Society of Boston. In 1871 he was president of the annual meeting of the American Medical Society. He was the chief promoter in the establishment of the state Board of Health, and his writings upon the subject of sanitary conditions were widely read and had much influence in the prevention of disease.

Dr. Catlin held many important positions in the community aside from those connected with his profession. He was director of the Home National Bank, and was either president or vice-president of the Meriden Savings Bank from the time of its organization. At the time of the removal of the First Congregational church to West Meriden he was elected deacon for life and held the office of treasurer of the church until the January before his death.

As a physician Dr. Catlin enjoyed the fullest confidence and esteem of the whole community. As a man he was unassuming but earnest and upright, firm in principle and consistent in every deed.

His death, which occurred February 18, 1880, brought a sense of personal loss to all Meriden, and his memory will live for many years to come.

On September 9, 1835, Dr. Catlin was married to Amelia Deborah Spencer, born November 4, 1811, daughter of William and Deborah (Selden) Spencer. To this marriage came: (1) Benjamin Spencer Catlin, born September 14, 1837, died February 15, 1871; he was in the Civil war from 1862 to 1865, serving as surgeon of the Second N. Y. V. I. and Twenty-first N. Y. V. Cav. (2) William Hopkins Catlin. The mother died August 7, 1883.

WILLIAM HOPKINS CATLIN.

No mention of the prominent citizens of Meriden would be complete without the name of William H. Catlin, who was born in this city, August 24, 1842, and has always been foremost in both financial and religious circles. If any one can boast of an illustrious American ancestry, that man is Mr. Catlin. Twenty-five of his forbears fought in the Indian wars and were members of the General Court; five served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War, one, Colonel Samuel Selden, being captured at the tak-

ing of New York City in 1776, and dying soon after in prison. Mr. Catlin's great-grandfather enlisted in 1777, when he was fifteen, and received a pension for his services.

The subject of this sketch is a direct descendant of Rev. Thomas Hooker, founder of Hartford; of Rev. John Wilson, who came to America in 1630, and was pastor of the First Church of Boston; of Rev. Roger Newton, first pastor of the Farmington church; of Rev. John Warham, who came from Plymouth, England, in 1630, and was first pastor of the church at Windsor, Conn.; and of Chad Brown, who in 1642, was ordained as the first settled pastor of the Baptist church at Providence, R. I.

Mr. Catlin was fortunate in receiving a good education at the district school in Meriden, and afterwards at the Hopkins Grammar school in New Haven. His first work was teaching school during the winter of 1861-62 at Northeast, Erie Co., Pa. But he soon felt that the place for him was in the army helping to preserve the Union, and, returning to Meriden, he was one of the first half dozen to form Company A, Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers. His company was mustered into the army August 25, 1862, and in a few days left for Washington. Mr. Catlin, with the rest of his company, fought valiantly during many important engagements for over three years until the end of the war, and was mustered out in June, 1865.



"KATLYN KOTTAGE," WEST PEAK.

Mr. Catlin then found himself in Erie, Pa., and from 1865 to 1867 he acted as bookkeeper in the hardware store of John C. Selden. After a winter spent at his old home in Meriden he felt the call of the West and went out to Missouri, where he bought a ranch in Barton county. In 1873 he returned to Meriden, in 1877 entered the Meriden Savings Bank as clerk, and in 1890 was chosen secretary and treasurer, which position he still occupies.

In 1880 Mr. Catlin was chosen deacon of the First Congregational church and has always been most active in everything pertaining to the welfare of the church, and most generous in its support. He is interested in all philanthropic works both at home and abroad. He was for two years president of the local Y. M. C. A., and has been one of the leading spirits in the maintenance of the Boys' Club. He is a member of the Board of Park Commissioners, and, in fact, promoters of any good work may look to him for sympathy and co-operation.

Mr. Catlin was married September 13, 1871, in Barton county, Mo., to Helen Mar Bailey, who died June 23, 1880. His second wife was Jane Winslow, of North Brookfield, Mass., daughter of David Lilly and Dolly Powers (Harwood) Winslow. Mrs. Catlin's father was a direct descendant of Kenelm Winslow. This Kenelm Winslow is supposed to have come over in the Mayflower on her second voyage. Mrs. Catlin's great-grandfather, Major Peter Harwood was in the Revolutionary War and was officer of the day when Andre was hanged. She is also a direct descendant of Governor Prence and Elder William Brewster.

RANSOM BALDWIN, SR.

Ransom Baldwin, Sr. (deceased) was born in Cheshire, Conn., March 1 1793, the son of James Baldwin, o that place, then a parish of Wallingford. His mother's name was Bethia Goodsell. She was a daughter of Jacob Goodsell and Lydia Denison o East Haven.

The family of which Ransom was a member moved to Meriden when he was about two years old and settled on the Westfield road a little way beyond the present Baldwin's mills. The house is still standing at the crown of the hill and seems likely to last for an indefinite period.

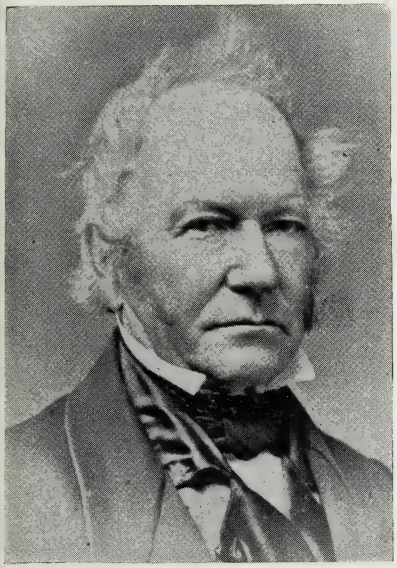
The father succeeded to the running of the Hough mill which from that time has been known as the Baldwin mill.

Ransom, at the age of twenty-one donning his freedom suit, started ou for himself as a traveling salesman o peddler, his business taking him, after fitting out at Squire Yale's, dow through Virginia, North and South Carolina.

He followed this business for abou twelve years when he retired from it activities and settled upon a farm o the east side of the town, at presen occupied by his descendants. In hi

political sympathies Mr. Baldwin was a life-long Democrat of the Jacksonian type.

On November 10, 1823, he married Sarah Twiss, daughter of Joseph



RANSOM BALDWIN, SR.

and Lois Austin Twiss, and remained in Meriden on his farm until his death on November 3, 1870, leaving four children: Sarah, who married William Briggs; Ransom, who married Mary Hall, of Wallingford; Mary E., the wife of Russell Hall; Justina C., the wife of Benjamin C. Kennard, of Meriden.

RANSOM BALDWIN, JR.

Among the citizens who stand out prominently as business men of the past century is the late Ransom Baldwin, Jr., who died December 25, 1897, at 277 Wall street, Meriden. An observer of men naturally falls into the habit of segregating a personality here and there and collecting around it as a center the events that lead to the making of a successful man. Mr. Baldwin furnishes material for such a study not alone by reason of his conspicuous business career but because of his high position as a private citizen.

He was the son of Ransom and grandson of James Baldwin, who es-



RANSOM BALDWIN, JR.

tablished the saw and grist mill at Baldwin's pond. The old homestead where James Baldwin lived is still standing in the eastern part of Meri-

den. James Baldwin was stirred by and took active part in the Revolutionary war. If there was any other goal to the ambition of this sixteen year old boy it was buried under the exciting events of the times. War had reared its ugly head and the demand was for soldiers. There were other members of the family who partook of the resistless tendency toward fighting for liberty. Ransom Baldwin's maternal grandfather, Joseph Twiss, enlisted with James Baldwin and both made gallant records for themselves.

In addition to farming Mr. Baldwin conducted a flour and grain business, the one working in with the other and bringing Mr. Baldwin into closest touch with the resources of Meriden and its business men. The result was natural, he became a large property owner, and, in consequence, a large taxpayer.

But he is greatly mistaken who thinks Mr. Baldwin was limited to business interests. He read much and thought earnestly on the problems of the day, especially on those problems that pertain to the uplifting of the people. His opinions were not formed to accord with the drift of public opinion but were held with a marked individuality of conviction. He had large humanitarian sympathies but believed that a deep religious life should be the vital energy of wise and effective humanitarian effort. He was for many years identified with the First Baptist church, Meriden, to which he was a liberal contributor.

In 1867 Mr. Baldwin was married to Miss Mary Hall, of Wallingford, who has always been in the worthiest sense of the word, the "partner" of his business prosperity, and has shared to the fullest measure in his higher thoughts and purposes. Mrs. Baldwin still survives him as also a daughter, Alice A., now Mrs. Charles Morgan, and a son, Ransom Leland, one of the leading business men of the town, whose sketch appears following. Two children have died, Flora C. and Henry H. He left two sisters also who are well known in Meriden, Mrs. B. C. Kennard and Mrs. Russell Hall.

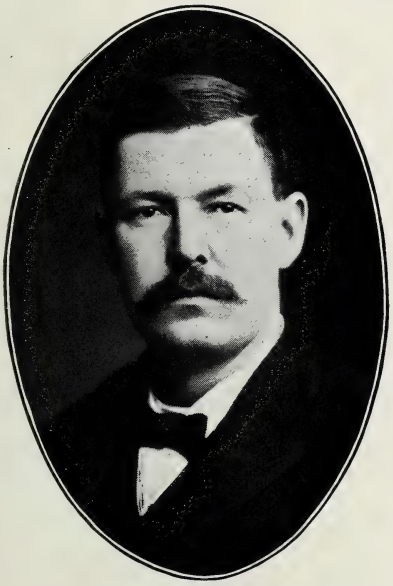
RANSOM LELAND BALDWIN.

The foundation for the thriving grain business of Ransom Leland Baldwin was laid by his father, the late Ransom Baldwin, a sketch of whose life appears above in this volume. The son has successively enlarged his business as the years have brought new experience and strengthened the old, until he has become one of the most substantial and promising of the younger men of this city.

Mr. Baldwin, whose mother was Mary Hall, was born January 29, 1870, in the house where he has lived ever since. He attended the common schools and then instead of marching into a new and untried field, he made his father's interests his own and learned the grain business on the home farm consisting of 100 acres.

The mastery of a business is the

ability to meet new conditions and make them a prominent factor of the old. Accordingly when Mr. Baldwin's increasing trade, in 1899, demanded better shipping facilities he built a large elevator on North George street—a commercial depot possessing excellent railroad facilities and connected with the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad by a spur track. He is able to receive and ship goods in a manner



RANSOM LELAND BALDWIN.

satisfactory to himself and his patrons.

The elevator is a brick structure built with every convenience for the handling of grain and it is only necessary to visit the big repository whose capacity is from 12,000 to 15,000 bushels and look at the shutes to get a slight hint of the large quantity of grain and hay that is handled every day under the owner's capable management.

Mr. Baldwin has never been satisfied to follow a narrow business career, his field widens yearly, a condition due to his well balanced commercial faculties, tempered with the elements of organization and execution—elements that are whetted by his close attention to business.

His interests in life are not one-sided. While the goddess of agriculture has smiled blandly upon his acres he has also grappled with the problems of finance and conducts a successful brokerage business in the Byxbee block. Thus he is brought into close relations with many public men whom he might meet in his regular work. His interest in the welfare of his town is always at heart.

He belongs to Meriden Center Lodge, F. and A. M., the Royal Arcanum, the Meriden Lodge of Elks, the Grange and the Meriden Business Men's Association. Like his father, he is a member of the First Baptist church.

WALDO C. TWISS.

Waldo Clinton Twiss, extensive land owner and one who has built and sold a great number of dwellings in Meriden, was born in Montreal, Can., in 1829, and is, therefore, just the age of the railroad industry. His parents were Ira and Vincie (Andrews) Twiss, and his ancestor, Joseph Twiss, fought at the battle of

Saratoga. His father was a clock-maker by trade, and he and his brothers were the first Yankees to manufacture clocks in Canada. As a boy the subject of this sketch was of delicate health which, however, he outgrew. His parents removed to Meriden when he was seven years old and he was educated in the district schools and Meriden Academy, attending later the institute at Suffield. His father, who kept the old tavern at the corner of Broad and East Main streets from 1839 to 1843, became the owner of extensive lands, mostly in the northern section of the town and after erecting saw mills at Twiss pond, gave his son, Waldo, the management of them. The mills, somewhat complicated, proved a success and he and his father were the pioneers in bagging wheat flour of their own manufacture, the quality of which was very superior to any made. The work of the mills attracted customers from great distances, some of its patrons passing by three others to have their grinding done at Twiss Mills.

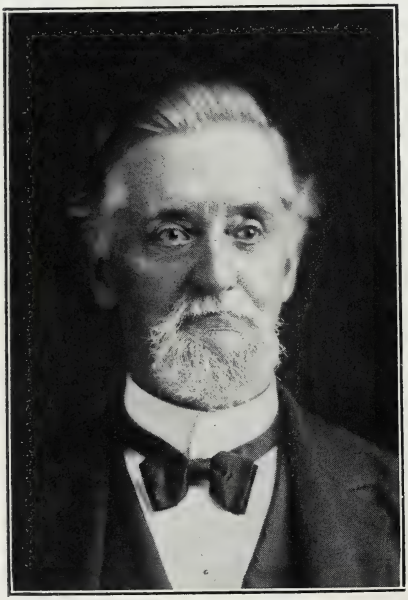


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

WALDO C. TWISS.

In 1870 he engaged in the lumber business and the building of houses on his own land and at one period of his operations as many as twenty cars of lumber were due at a time for his use. On Twiss street Mr. Twiss has erected many houses, while Britannia, Murray, Clinton and Pearl streets also show the results of his enterprise in building up the town. For many years Mr. Twiss also carried on a



IRA TWISS.

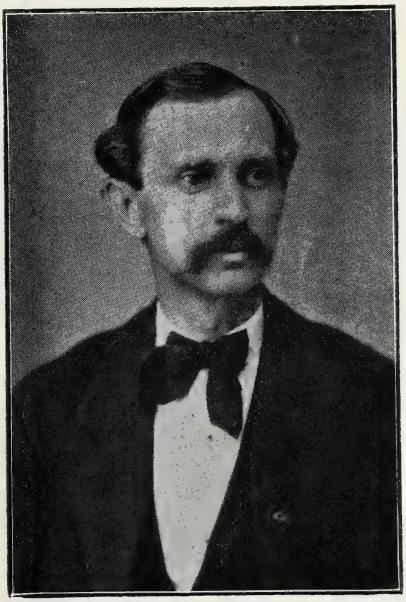
building moving business and while he was thus engaged practically all the buildings moved were by him and his men, including the old Baptist and Episcopal churches. In moving the latter a gas pipe was broken, the only breakage of that kind that ever occurred in the twenty-five years he was engaged in business.

He began to purchase land on an extensive scale during the Civil war time and first bought a large tract for $1,200, and after selling a portion of it sufficient to get his money back, still owned more than he had bought it for, owing to the generous old-fashioned measurement. He afterwards bought twenty-three acres from William J. Ives, for which he paid $6,000, and by whom he was not required to give any security other than his word and whom he paid out of his sales to others. His next purchase was twenty-three acres, also outside the city limits in the eastern section of the town and where he still owns much land desirable for building purposes.

He was married in 1860 to Cornelia, daughter of Watrous Ives, of Meriden, who died in 1900, after a happy married life of nearly forty years. He has no living children.

MARSHALL LEE FORBES.

Marshall Lee Forbes, a resident of Meriden, now deceased, and who held the respect of the community, was born in East Hartford, July 29, 1828, and was the son of Orin and Mary Forbes. Coming to this town from Wallingford where he had previously worked, he became employed by the Meriden Britannia Company as a silver plater, which occupation he followed until his death. He was industrious and thrifty in his habits and became a property owner and was always known as a citizen of the town, who had its interests at heart.



MARSHALL LEE FORBES.

On November 28, 1849, he married Susan C. Hall, daughter of Hiel and Sarah (Kirtland) Hall, of Wallingford, who still survives him and resides in the comfortable residence which he owned some years before his regretted death. Mr. Forbes served creditably in the city government and, with his wife, was a devoted member

of St. Andrew's Episcopal church. He was also a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being connected with the blue lodge, Wallingford, and St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar. He died April 24, 1891, respected by all who knew him.

His son, Henry Forbes, was born in Wallingford January 2, 1851, was educated in the public schools, but dur-



HENRY FORBES.

ing the latter part of his life was in very poor health. When he was eighteen years of age his father built for him a small greenhouse, and upon his advice, the son employed himself in the study and cultivation of flowers. From this small start grew a florist business of quite large proportions, which was carried on for some years with success.

Henry Forbes married May O. Ward, of Rochester, N. Y., but formerly of Wallingford. The surroundings of the greenhouse and the duties involved in conducting it, without question, prolonged the life of the younger Forbes, but at the age of thirty he died, after having passed a short but active life. After his death the florist business, which was at that time the largest in Meriden, was conducted by his wife, a woman of exceptional business ability and energy, who also conducted the store on West Main street, until her death which occurred in 1894, when the business was sold by Mrs. Forbes, Sr., to others who have since conducted it in the greenhouse adjoining her residence.

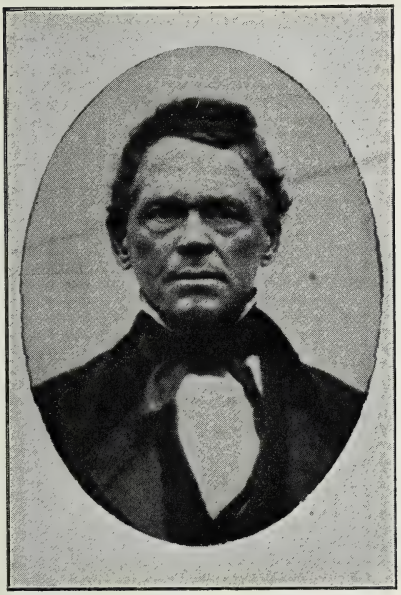
HOMER CURTISS.

Homer Curtiss, deceased, was born August 4, 1800, at the Curtiss Homestead, on Curtis street, where his father was also born. He spent several years while a young man, first in teaching school, and later as clerk in a store which he left because his principles forbade his selling liquor. He thus early took a stand on the temperance question which he maintained by precept and example throughout his life.

About 1833, in partnership with Harlow Isbell, he commenced the manufacture of latch keys, and later of locks and knobs, in a building located near the corner of Church street and High School avenue. About 1845 the factory was removed

to the site now occupied by the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., the firm being Curtiss, Morgan & Co.

In 1855 the factory was destroyed by fire and the business removed to Norwalk and organized as the Norwalk Lock Co. In 1857 Mr. Curtiss returned to Meriden and remained until 1861 when he removed to New York. There he was engaged in the



HOMER CURTISS.

hardware business until failing health compelled him to retire from active business and he returned to Meriden where he died May 30, 1880.

Mr. Curtiss in early life united with the First Congregational church, and went with that church when it moved to Colony street. In 1848 he was elected a life deacon and served until he moved to Norwalk. He was superintendent of the Sunday school and was for many years a teacher there. Soon after he removed to New York, there being a strong pro-slavery sentiment in the community, he with several members of the Presbyterian church which he attended, founded Pilgrims Church, now located on 123rd street, to propagate anti-slavery principles; and he was a deacon and loyal supporter of that church until his return to Meriden.

In 1835 he married Julia Ann Upson. They had four children, all of whom are living.

Mr. Curtiss was fearless in following his convictions and "Dared to be in the right with two or three." Early in the history of the Anti-Slavery agitation he and Mrs. Curtiss became ardent adherents of that cause and gave to it freely of their time and substance, frequently suffering serious loss in consequence. Their home was a station of the "Underground Railway" and many fugitives passed through it on their way to freedom.

Mr. Curtiss maintained an unblemished reputation as a business man and Christian citizen through his long life, being everywhere respected and loved, and his "works do follow him."

HENRY J. CHURCH,

Henry James Church, during his life, was one of the oldest and best known men engaged in the undertaking business in the state. While born

at East Haven a greater part of his useful life was spent in Meriden where he died May 20, 1903. The date of his birth was August 1, 1831. He was a son of James and Huldah (Barnes) Church and was descended from Thomas Church, who came from England in 1680 and settled in Plainfield, Conn. Henry J. Church's grandfather, a farmer of Haddam and a Continental soldier in the Revolutionary war, was taken a prisoner by the British and being confined in their prison ship in New York harbor, escaped by swimming, a feat which historians record as unequalled by any other man during the Revolution. Mr. Church was also descended from patriotic ancestry on the maternal side; for his grandfather, Isaac Barnes, a farmer of East Haven, enlisted during the Revolution and under Benedict Arnold marched from New Haven to Ticonderoga.

Henry Church, father of Henry J., a shoemaker by trade, and who spent many years engaged in the retail shoe business in the West Indies, served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812. He died in East Haven in 1839, and his son, Henry J., who spent his boyhood in his native town, New Britain and Meriden, was the last of seven children to survive him.

Apprenticed as a cabinet maker in 1847, he became a skilled workman at that trade and later became a clerk in a Meriden furniture store. When the Civil war broke out he followed the example set by his forefathers and in August, 1862, enlisted from Meriden in Company F, 15th Conn. Vols. He took almost immediate active service at the front and his regiment was engaged in the battle of Fredericksburg and the siege of Suffolk. He was later assigned to the subsistence department of the Army of the Potomac under General Burnside with whom he remained until 1863, but continued in active service in the North Carolina district until the close of hostilities. After receiving his honorable discharge July 8, 1865, he returned to Meriden and engaged in the undertaking business. Through the evident painstaking service he rendered the people, many years before his death he had established the largest, oldest and best known establishment within several miles of the city. Of a naturally kindly and humane disposition, he could not fail to win the personal gratitude and regard of all who employed him. He was usually called to arrange the services in cases of bereavement not entirely confined to the older and leading families. During his life he officiated at the services of over 6,000 people but during the latter years of his life was assisted by his son, Louis H. Church, who succeeded him upon his regretted decease.

He was a member and past president of the New England and the Connecticut Undertakers' Associations and stood high as was possible for any man to stand in his profession. He was a prominent member and past commander of Merriam Post, G. A. R.; served as a member of the city

government in both the Common Council and Board of Aldermen; was a member of the higher branches of the Masonic order, being connected with the St. Elmo Commandery, K. T., and was a past master of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; he was also a charter member of Myrtle Lodge, K. of P.; Silver City Lodge, No. 3, A. O. U. W., and was an honorary member of Meriden Center Lodge, No. 68, I. O. O. F.

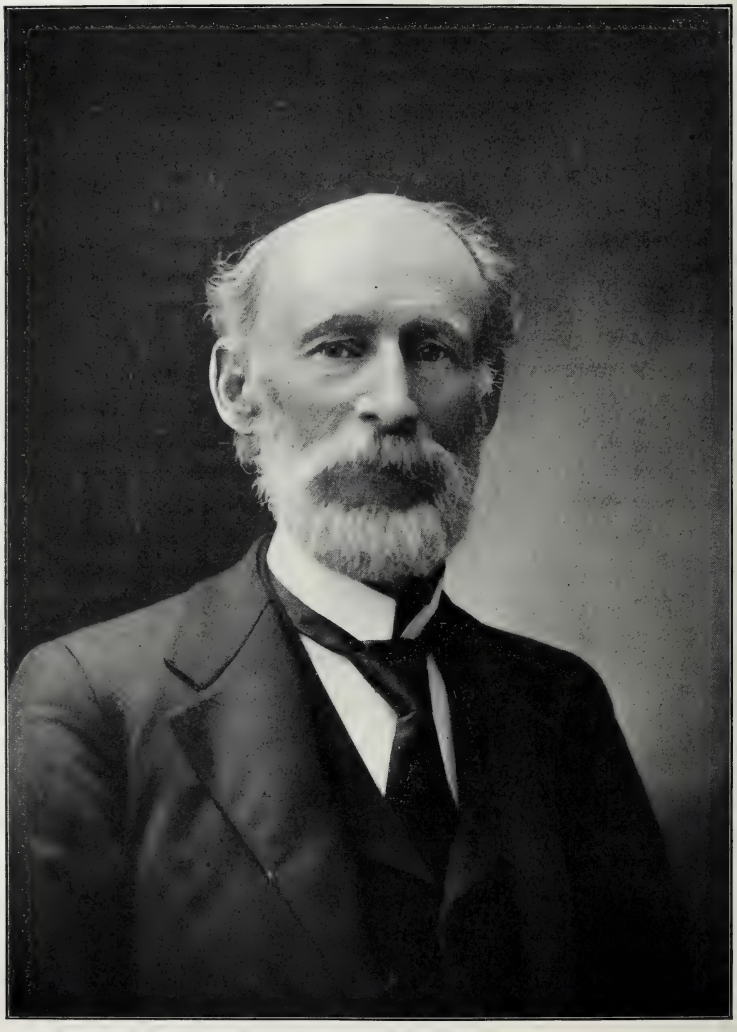
He was married in 1853 to Elizabeth, daughter of Luke T. and Elizabeth (Foster) Draper, of Monson, Mass., and they had five children, of whom Louis H. is the only one surviving. Mr. Church is remembered, not only as a man who conducted his business on a plane with the professions, but one who was a good citizen, neighbor and friend indeed to all who knew him.

LOUIS H. CHURCH.

Louis Henry Church, Meriden's leading funeral director and who in business succeeded his father, the late Henry J. Church, was born in Meriden January 15, 1878. His education in the local public schools was followed by an attendance at the schools of embalming from which he graduated. Few young men have been favored with better training for their profession, but he was never sent to college to be taught to think. From boyhood he became associated with his father, who taught him in the old and thorough way his life's calling, and the high standard of which he has always maintained. The present well equipped establishment, the oldest in Meriden, stands near the site where young Mr. Church was born and he naturally became an undertaker. Perhaps never was the saying "like father like son" more forcibly illustrated than in Louis Church and his deceased father, Henry Church. He not only resembles him in personal appearance, except being taller in stature, but in actions, methods and disposition. That he fills in an official capacity the place in the business world made vacant by the loss of his father is a fact fully conceded by the better and older families of this vicinity by whom he is constantly employed and has enjoyed an acquaintance with for many years. While imbued with the teachings of his father who was of the old school, he is also an authority on the modern methods of the business of which he has become master.

The first glance at the establishment he conducts suggests to the visitor nothing as to the nature of the work done there unless he looks further than the large and nicely furnished office, finished in well polished hardwood fittings; but hidden from view is a full fledged morgue. Adjoining the office is a mortuary chapel and beyond that a workroom. The office is never closed night or day and two competent assistants are employed.

Mr. Church, having been born and brought up in the business which he



H. J. Church



L. H. Church.

has by study and long practice developed to a scientific standard, enjoys the fullest confidence of the community. His funeral arrangements are always to be relied upon in every detail which he attends to with that kindly consideration for the feelings of his fellowmen which must be inborn.

As a resident of Meriden Mr. Church is held in high regard by the citizens. He resides with his family in the old Church homestead, 78 Pleasant street, and is a prominent figure in social life. From early manhood he has been an active member of the First Methodist church, of Meriden, in which he takes a deep interest. He is also a member of several fraternal organizations. He is identified with the Masons, holding membership with Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Meriden Center Lodge, 68, I. O. O. F.; Meriden Lodge, 35, B. P. O. Elks; Myrtle Lodge, 4, Knights of Pythias; Columbia Council, American Mechanics; Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum; Charles L. Upham Camp, Sons of Veterans, and is one of the charter members of the Colonial Club of Meriden. In politics he is a Republican. He is also a member of the Meriden Business Men's Association and the Connecticut Undertakers' Association. He stands at the head of his profession and has met with favor from a fastidious clientele, the result of the fact that he has attained his position by the merit of his own effort.

He is married to Maude Lillian Marshall, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and they have the following named children: Grace Huntington, Annie Louise and Elizabeth Augusta.

THE MURDOCK FAMILY.

The first of the Murdock family to come to this country was Peter, son of John Murdock and Mary (Munson) Murdock. They were natives of Scotland but removed to Limerick, Ireland, on account of religious persecutions. John Murdock was a loyal subject of William of Orange in whose interests he sacrificed nearly all his property. For this reason Peter was sent to live with his uncle, also named Peter, in the north of England. At seventeen years of age he emigrated to this country, landing in Philadelphia with but a crown in his pocket. Naturally of a frugal and industrious disposition, he saved enough to go into mercantile business. He, later, settled on Long Island and married Mary E. Fithin, of Southampton. He then opened a store in East Hampton which he left in charge of his wife while he engaged in the coasting trade with a small vessel. He purchased later, 2,200 acres of land at Little Egg Harbor, N. J., and 840 acres more at what is now Westbrook, Conn., removing his store to the latter town and continuing there until his death November 6, 1755.

John Murdock, only child of Peter and Mary, was born in East Hampton, Long Island, in 1706. He became



Z. K. Murdock R.



Harriet M. Murdock.

a large land owner and a successful farmer in Westbrook, and was one of the deacons of the Congregational church, major in the colonial militia, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of New London county and also represented the town of Saybrook in the legislature. He married Phebe Sill of Lyme, who died ten months after the marriage. His second wife was Frances Conklin of East Hampton who bore him thirteen children and three of their sons were graduates of Yale College.

William Murdock, son of John, born August 31, 1740, was a farmer in Westbrook; he married Jerusha Lay of Lyme and they had thirteen children. His fourth child, Peter Murdock, the patriot, was a cabin boy, serving three voyages on the privateers "John Jay" and "Thomas Marshall" during the Revolution and received $300 prize money on the first trip. In later life he was a farmer in Westbrook. He married Mrs. Bathsheba (Dodge) Bush, widow of John Bush, of East Lyme. To this union were born the following children: Polly U., who became Mrs. DeWolf, of Clinton, Conn.; Charles and Delia, twins, the latter of whom married Edw. Dowd, and was the mother of Zina Dowd, of Meriden; Emeline, who married Horace Nettleton, of Clinton, Conn.; Zina Kelsey, and Matthew Griswold. Mrs. Murdock by her marriage to John Bush was the mother of Fenner, John and Amaziah Bush, Fenner Bush being prominent in his day in the manufacturing life of Meriden; Mr. Murdock died at Westbrook in 1853.

Zina Kelsey Murdock was born at Westbrook, March 2, 1811, and received his education there. Although in delicate health, but being ambitious, at the age of fourteen, he walked from Westbrook to Meriden where his half brother, Fenner Bush was engaged in manufacturing ivory combs, in whose employ he worked for several years, finally becoming the partner of Curtis L. North and carried on a trading business along the shores of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, leaving Mr. North to manage the insurance and investment business in Meriden. The outcome not being satisfactory to Mr. Murdock, he dissolved partnership, leaving Mr. North in full possession. He later bought a large farm on Murdock avenue, where his son, George B. Murdock now resides. Mr. Murdock was a man of strong character and believed in every man receiving his just rights. He was also a man possessed of indomitable courage and energy, a well trained mind and cultivated intellect.

During the so-called Meriden riots in 1837, Mr. Murdock, with several other advocates of free speech, took a stand in favor of allowing the Rev. Mr. Ludlow to lecture on anti-slavery, which in consequence of the prevailing sentiment in Meriden caused a mob to gather during which the defenders of free speech were severely injured.

Mr. Murdock was a Whig in politics during the existence of that party,

but during the last years of his life supported the Democratic party. He never sought or accepted any political office. Both Mr. Murdock and his wife belonged to old Congregational families and were members of that church but in later life joined the Episcopal church.

He married Harriet M. Bronson, daughter of Judge Bennet and Anna (Smith) Bronson, of Waterbury, to whom three children were born: Mary E., October 8, 1843; George Bronson, February 25, 1846, and Charles Z., May 1, 1850. Mr. Murdock died January 30, 1874, and his wife survived him twenty years, passing away in 1895.

George B. Murdock, oldest son of Zina K. and Harriet M. Murdock, attended the Meriden public schools, Meriden Academy and the Russell Military Academy at New Haven. He grew to manhood on the farm where he has always remained engaged in general agriculture.

Mr. Murdock is one of the directors of the Meriden Savings Bank and was one of the organizers of the Meriden Grange, the first three years of which he was master. He was married in Meriden in 1896 to Harriet Elizabeth Graves, of New Haven. Their children are George Peter, born May 11, 1897; Harriet Josephine, born October 22, 1898, and Bennet Bronson, born January 15, 1901.

Charles Zina Murdock, youngest son of Zina K. and Harriet M. (Bronson) Murdock, was born on his father's farm May 1, 1850. He attended the Meriden public schools and the Meriden Academy and also the Russell Military Academy at New Haven.

He remained upon the home farm until he was thirty-eight years old, previous to which he was engaged in general agriculture and dairy farming. In 1888, by agreement with his mother and brother, he took one hundred acres of his father's estate on Paddock avenue, upon the highest elevation of which he has erected his present modern residence.

He is a member of the Meriden Grange and belongs to no other society; is domestic in his tastes, well versed in the topics of the day and is an extensive reader of the best literature.

He was married March 6, 1889, to Miss Alice C. Carter, who is remembered as a woman of marked beauty, a warm and generous heart and cultivated mind, with a keen appreciation of the highest and noblest in daily life, and who died April 25, 1891, and was buried in the West cemetery at Meriden. But one child was born to the union, Carter Z., Feb. 12, 1891.

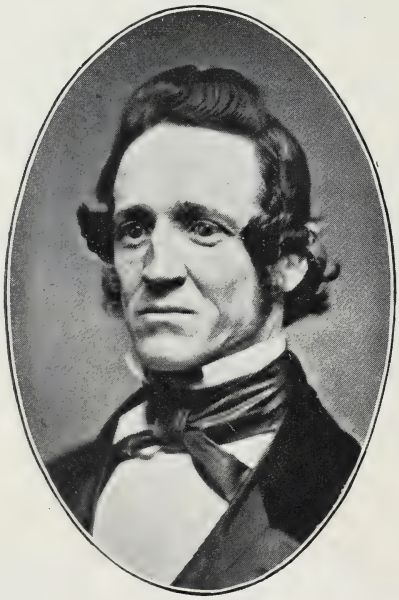
REV. HARVEY MILLER.

One of the clergymen of the town who enjoyed the esteem of the community in a marked degree was the late Rev. Harvey Miller, who was for eighteen years pastor of the First Baptist church.

He was born in Wallingford, the son of Samuel Miller. His father was a preacher before him and like

the divines of his period had to rely upon other methods of money making than that which he received at the hands of his church society. He taught school during the day and cobbled shoes at night.

Harvey Miller was one of a family of nine boys and early in life received a lameness, caused by stepping on a scythe, from which he never



REV. HARVEY MILLER.

recovered. This gave him a halting gait. At one time he suffered severely from inflammatory rheumatism and was able to walk only with the aid of crutches which he discarded when in the pulpit and his wise sermons were delivered under great personal physical pain. As a boy he was delicate and he never acquired a physique sufficiently strong to lead the life of the clergyman whose deeds furnish such a bright spot on the pages of the history of this town.

He was born April 3, 1814, and died August 27, 1856. He was educated in the district school and the Hamilton Theological Seminary, of New York. His first pastorate was at Ann Arbor, Mich., but he remained there but a short time owing to ill health, which was caused by the poor board furnished him.

During his eighteen years as pastor of the First Baptist church, the society grew and prospered both spiritually and otherwise. The kind and sympathetic nature of its pastor was always a source of comfort to its members and his able sermons always presented on evangelical lines resulted in the saving of many souls.

His wife was Sarah Rosetta Ives and their children were as follows: Sarah Eliza, Mrs. Edward A. Wilcox, of St. Paul, Minn., born July 5, 1841, died April 8, 1886; Catherine Juliet, widow of Edward H. Yale, of Meriden, born March 21, 1844; Alina Birdsey Miller, born Aug. 21, 1846, died July 1, 1869; Vincie Rosetta, born June 15, 1851, died December 19, 1855.

During his married life Mr. Miller lived with his family at the parsonage standing on Broad street, next adjoining the residence of Edward Miller, which was afterward purchased of the church society by his widow.

Mr. Miller during his life was

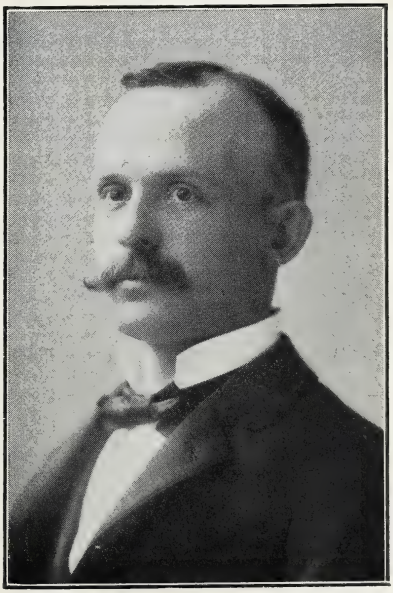
deeply interested in educational matters and was a member of the school committee for many years. He served as a member of the visiting committee and also selected the textbooks used in the Meriden schools in his time.

His only surviving daughter is Mrs. Edward H. Yale, who for many years has been a widow and has conducted, with her son, a large farm on the North Colony road until 1905, when upon her son's marriage, she leased the farm to him and has since remained there but a portion of the time.

CHARLES S. PERKINS.

Charles Smith Perkins, national bank examiner of Connecticut and Rhode Island, is one of the best known Federal officials of the state. He was born on Perkins street, New Haven, May 11, 1854, and is the son of Charles Perkins, who during the latter part of his life, was a prominent contractor and a partner of H. Wales Lines. His mother was Eunice, daughter of Deacon David Smith, of Woodbridge, Conn.

He was educated in the public schools of New Haven, Russell's Institute, New Haven, and finished at the academy at Cheshire. In 1870 he entered the Home National Bank, of Meriden, where he remained continuously for twenty-nine years. In 1899 he received the appointment as national bank examiner, by the United States Treasury Department, to succeed Michael Dooley, of Hartford, who had resigned to become the head of a large financial institution of Providence, R. I. Mr. Perkins has since acted in his official capacity under the comptroller of the currency and his duties require him to visit every national bank in Connecticut and Rhode Island, once a year, and to see that they observe the regulations set forth by the govern-



CHARLES S. PERKINS.

ment at Washington. Probably no man in the state has had a greater experience or is better posted on banking matters, than Mr. Perkins, and his service as a national bank examiner reflects credit upon this town where he has resided the greater portion of his life.

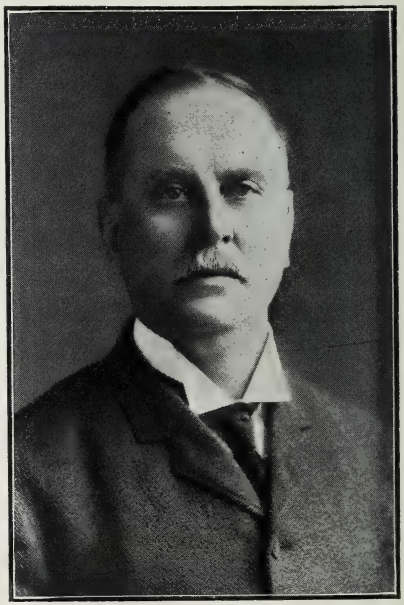
He has served Meriden both as town and city treasurer, having served sev-

en years in the former and six years in the latter office. While not at the present writing active in politics, he was for many years a prominent member of the Republican town committee. He has for thirty years been a member of the Home Club, with which social organization he was affiliated when it was known as the Meriden Club. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter and Hamilton Council. He is also a member of St. Elmo commandery, 9, K. T., and was for some years its recorder.

He has been twice married; first, in 1877, to Laura Bloodgood, and to that union two children were born; September 24, 1889, he was again married to Ada Pitt, of Meriden; to them four children were born, three of whom are now living, two boys and one girl. Mr. Perkins with his family resides on North Colony street.

REV. JOEL S. IVES.

Joel Stone Ives was born in Colebrook, Connecticut, December 5, 1847. His father, Rev. Alfred Eaton Ives, Yale 1837, was descended from William Ives, who came from England to Quinnipiac in 1637 and from John Howland, of the Mayflower company; his mother, Harriet Platt Stone had as ancestors John Stone, of Guilford, the Rev. Thomas Hooker and Governor Treat. Fitting for college at his home in Castine, Maine, he graduated at Amherst in 1870 and received his A. M. in 1872. During the school year 1870-1871 he taught in what was then the Railroad district, the school house being on Colony street south of the entrance to the State grounds. After three years in Yale Divinity school he received his B. D. in 1874. In May of the same year he went to East Hampton, Connecticut, and in September was ordained pastor of the



REV. JOEL S. IVES.

Congregational church. Being dismissed in 1883, he was immediately installed pastor at Stratford where he remained for sixteen years. November, 1899, he became secretary of The Missionary Society of Connecticut, and moved to his wife's home, 430 Colony street, although the office is at 426 Asylum street, Hartford.

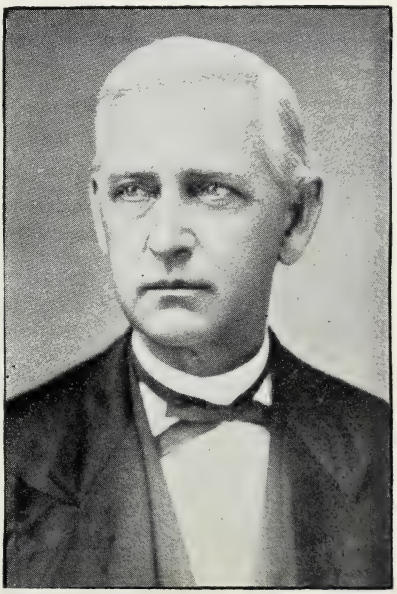
Mr. Ives was on the school boards both in East Hampton and Stratford; president of the Stratford Library association, 1885-1899, during which time the elegant library building was constructed; president of the John Stone Association; registrar of the Fairfield East Consociation for ten years; director of The Missionary Society 1894-1899; registrar and statistical secretary of the general conference of the Congregational churches of Connecticut since 1898; moderator of the General Association in 1895 and its registrar and treasurer since 1899; registrar of the National Council of Congregational Churches of the United States since 1900. He has published several sermons and historical addresses and numerous papers relative to the missionary work, giving particular attention to the problems of immigration and has been a frequent contributor to various publications.

July 15, 1874, he married Emma Sarah, the daughter of Joel Ives Butler, who was the grandson of Comfort and Dolly Ives Butler. Father and daughter were born in the Lieut. Comfort Butler house on Kensington avenue, which house, one of the oldest domiciles of this locality, is shown elsewhere. Dolly Ives was descended from John, the son of William Ives, who took up land in New Haven village, now Wallingford. They have had five children, three of whom are living, Anne Emma, Joel Butler and Dwight Stone Ives.

ASAHEL H. CURTIS.

Asahel Harrison Curtis was a resident of Meriden and connected with the Curtis family which has been so noticeably prominent in the history of the town during the past century.

He took a most active part in its business and political affairs until his



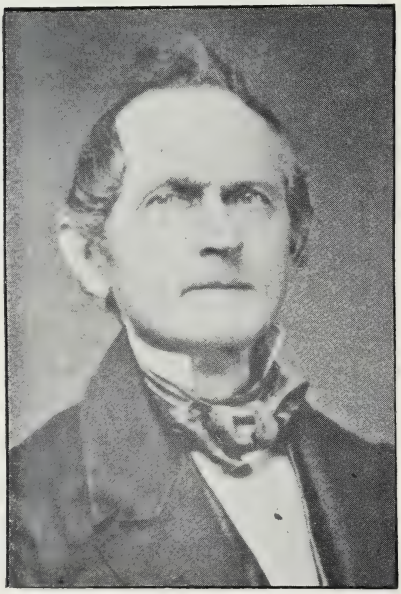
ASAHEL H. CURTIS.

death which occurred July 23, 1877. He was born in Meriden and was a son of Enos H. Curtis. He attended the common schools of the town and began his business career in partnership with a son of Julius Yale with whom he conducted the grocery business for a number of years. In 1840 he was married to Juliet Yale who, at an advanced age, still survives him,

and who, at this writing, is the only surviving descendant of Charles Yale, the founder of Yalesville.

Mr. Curtis was a man whose scrupulous honesty won the united confidence of his fellow townsmen and his financial ability brought him a high position in the community.

At the time of his death he had been for eleven years the treasurer of the



ENOS H. CURTIS.

Meriden Savings Bank, having previously enjoyed the distinction of having been the first treasurer of the City of Meriden, to which office he was chosen in 1867.

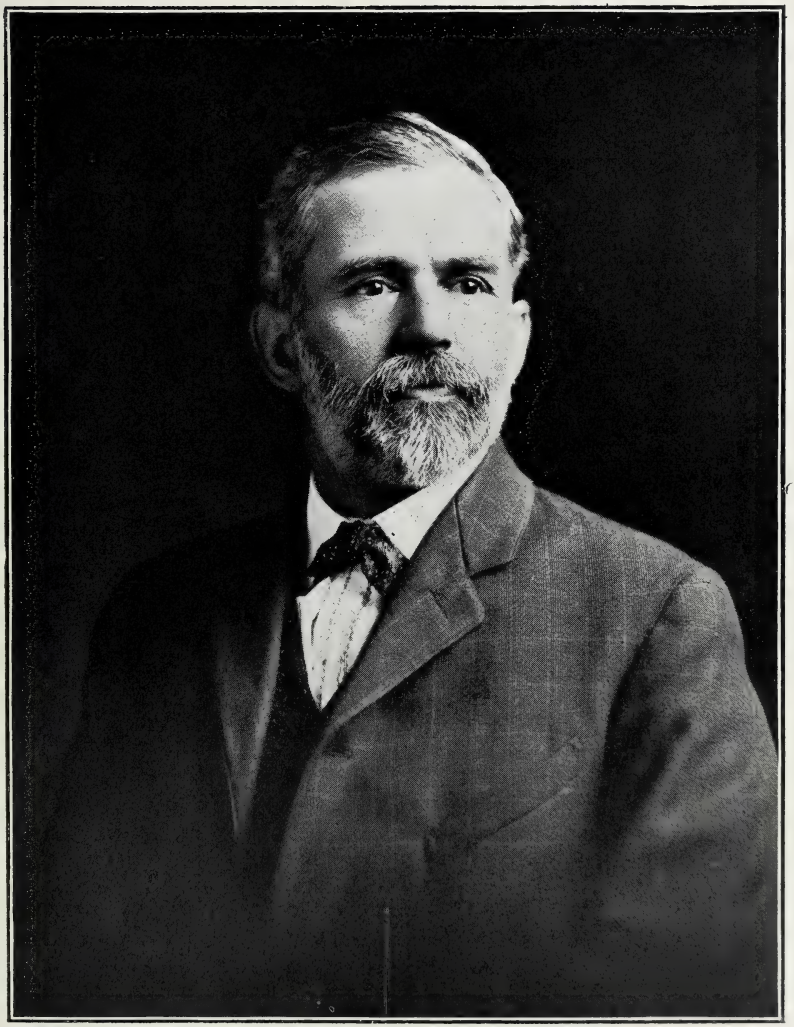
Mr. Curtis was also postmaster of Meriden for a number of years and was appointed to that office by President Millard Fillmore. He was a man whose character was above reproach but was not a member of any church society. He was, however, a Master Mason and also a member of Center Lodge, I. O. O. F. His death was severely felt by the people of Meriden. He is survived by no children.

DAVID BLOOMFIELD.

David Bloomfield, oldest architect of Meriden, was born in Cromwell, Conn., November 6, 1851. He is descended from Welsh ancestry and his grandfather, David Bloomfield, was a native of Woodbridge, N. J., who spent his life in agricultural pursuits. His mother was Elizabeth (Butler) Bloomfield, a native of Staten Island, a woman of strong religious inclinations. His father, Nathan Bloomfield, was a ship builder and some three or four years before David was born engaged in ship carpentering at Cromwell and still later formed a partnership with Andrew F. Parker and conducted a ship building business at Middle Haddam, where he died in 1861.

Young David obtained his early education at Middle Haddam and when he became old enough to handle carpenters' tools, industriously assisted his father in his spare time until the age of seventeen.

He came to Meriden in 1869 and continuing to work at carpentering, being ambitious, he took up the study of architecture and mechanical drawing. During his young manhood he worked a portion of the time in Massa-



David Bloomfield

chusetts where he made the fortunate acquaintance of H. C. Shute, who took an interest in him.

In 1886 he felt warranted from his previous successes to open an office in Meriden and engage in the profession of architecture which he has successfully carried on to the present time.

Among the many structures designed and their construction superintended by Mr. Bloomfield may be named the following: Franklin street, Columbia street, Liberty street and St. Laurent's school houses; St. Mary's Roman Catholic and German Lutheran churches, the C. W. Cahill block, the Beuchler block, the Schwander block, Fox's block, the Record building, the Journal building, Pacific Lodge building, the residence of the late W. F. Rockwell, First Congregational Church parsonage, and the residences of the late Edward J. Collins, I. B. Miller, A. S. Thomas, Mrs. Mary Wilson, George Rockwell, W. L. Squire, and of many others in this city.

When the office of plumbing inspector was created in 1894 he was made the first incumbent; and the duties of that office he has performed efficiently and satisfactorily to the public up to the present time.

He was appointed fire marshall by Mayor Ives in 1893, a position which his knowledge of building construction admirably fits him to serve the interests of the citizens. He has also served two years as a member of the Common Council and was a member of that body from the Fifth ward in 1893 and 1894. He was one of the directors of the Pacific Real Estate Association and during the difficulties of Pacific Lodge, I. O. O. F., after the construction of the building, was one of the first to put his shoulder to the wheel and guide the enterprise to success.

He is a member of the Meriden Board of Trade, Business Men's Association, Montowese Tribe, I. O. R. M., and Colonial Club. In 1884 he was married to Miss Clara R. Richards, of Bristol, Conn.

WILLIAM L. BRADLEY.

Perhaps no resident of Meriden during the century of its existence as an incorporated town, ever won to a higher degree the admiration and esteem of his fellow townsmen than did the late William L. Bradley. His life furnishes not only a conspicuous example of perseverance and ability worthy to be chronicled in the pages of history but one which may well be emulated by generations following him.

Born in Cheshire, Conn., May 25, 1826, he was a son of Levi and Abigail A. (Atwater) Bradley, and his progenitors on both sides are traced directly to the first settlers of New Haven county. His early ancestor, William Bradley, was a major in Oliver Cromwell's army, and he immigrated to this country and settled in North Haven as far back as 1643. William L. Bradley was also descended from David Atwater, one of

the first planters of New Haven, who the records show, settled there in 1639.

William L. Bradley, as a boy, attended the district school of his native town, following which he further pursued his education at the academies of Southington and Cheshire, concluding his schooling at the Lancasterian School at New Haven.

At the age of thirteen he began his remarkable business career as a clerk in a New Haven dry goods store, and at seventeen he became a member of the firm of one of the largest dry goods houses in that city. The business not being entirely congenial to his tastes he withdrew his interest in the store and entered the employ of Charles Parker as traveling salesman. That he adapted himself to his new circumstances with unusual versatility seems to be proven by his success in largely increasing the sales of his employer.

With the consent of Mr. Parker, he also became interested with a friend in the manufacture of portemonnaies, and later in the manufacture of clocks and small metal wares with his brother, Nathaniel L. Bradley, and Walter Hubbard, which afterward developed into the Bradley & Hubbard Manufacturing Co., the largest industry of its kind in the world.

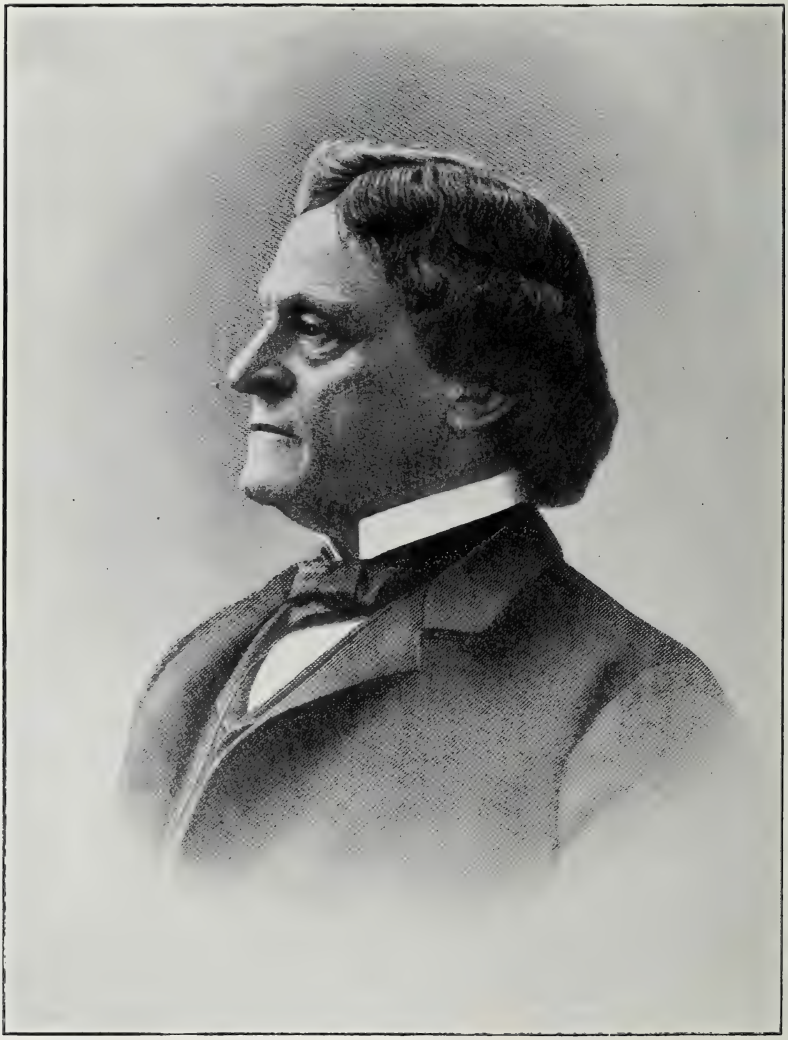
During this period he purchased four acres of land in West Meriden and erected a fine residence thereon, which is still standing. He improved and beautified this property to a noticeable extent, and gradually added more land to the estate until it comprised over two hundred acres. In this house his two sons, Peter B. and Robert S., and one daughter, Abby A. Bradley, who now survive him, were born, and with his family he occupied the house for many years. Although it is now over forty years since he removed with his family from the city, the estate now occupied by the Meriden Golf Club, is still well kept and almost intact, although as stated elsewhere in this book, is ere long to be cut up into house lots.

It was in 1861 that Mr. Bradley saw the future possibilities of chemical fertilizers and it was he who first embraced the opportunity in this country to make a success of that industry.

With his notes endorsed for a limited amount by Oakes Ames, of Boston, whom he had interested in his project, he began the manufacture of fertilizers in a factory situated on the banks of the old South Bay, Boston. The business soon outgrew this small plant and later another and larger factory was built at North Weymouth, which eventually became the largest of its kind in the world.

Greater and greater became the demand for Bradley's fertilizers until their use became general among the farmers in the east and south.

In 1872 the business was incorporated under the name of the Bradley Fertilizer Company and branch offices were established at Rochester, N. Y., Cleveland, O., Baltimore, Md., and Augusta, Ga., Mr. Bradley continuing at the head of the corporation as pres-



W. L. Bradley



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

VIEWS OF MERIDEN GOLF CLUB COURSE, LOCATED ON WILLIAM BRADLEY ESTATE.

The Third Green.
Bradley Avenue, near Club House.

The Home Green.
The Club House.

ident and manager. Later he became largely interested in other fertilizer works at Carteret, N. J., Cleveland, O., Baltimore, Md., and Charleston, S. C., besides operating extensive phosphate mines in South Carolina and Florida.

His early struggles and constant cares so impaired his health that he retired from active business some years before his death, and was relieved from the management of his various large enterprises by his sons, Peter B. and Robert S. Bradley, who had been associated with him for many years. During the last years of his life he devoted much of his time to the care of his beautiful country estate at Hingham, Mass., where he died after a short illness December 15, 1894. He had attained the age of sixty-eight years, and his active life, kind disposition and benevolence will ever be remembered by those who knew him.

Mr. Bradley was married in 1848 to Frances Martina Coe, the daughter of Calvin and Harriet (Rice) Coe, who before her marriage lived with her parents on the celebrated Coe farm in the Hanover district. Two sons and one daughter, as stated above, survive him.

THE WM. L. BRADLEY ESTATE.

This old estate, comprising over 200 acres, and one of the grandest in all Connecticut, is soon to be invaded by streets and gradually portioned off into residence lots. The history of this estate, every square foot of which furnishes delightful views of the celebrated Meriden Hanging Hills and other charming scenery of woodland, hill and dale, recalls pleasant memories to the people of Meriden, both of present and past generations.

The original estate, purchased from Hezekiah Rice in 1851 by the late William L. Bradley, comprised but four acres upon which Mr. Bradley erected a fine house and spent a large amount of money in beautifying the grounds. To this small acreage he continually added by subsequent purchases of adjoining property until the estate embraced over two hundred acres of the most beautiful lands in this part of Connecticut.

The name of the so-called "Old Road" was changed to Bradley avenue; and Hanover street was put through on the other side of the property. The introduction of street cars has now brought the whole estate within ten minutes of the heart of Meriden.

A section of the estate, years ago, was converted into a fair grounds and in those days the "Meriden Fair" was held successfully every year. The marks of the old race track over which noted races were run, although now merged into the giant velvety lawn, are still discernable on close inspection. Within the past few years the estate, with the old homestead for a club house, has been leased by the Meriden Golf Club and used exclusively by the members. The grounds have been admirably laid out for the

purpose and comprise as desirable an area for the game as is to be found in New England.

The present owners of this property, Peter B. and Robert S. Bradley, sons of the late William L. Bradley, both of whom were born in the Bradley homestead, but for many years have been prominent in business circles of Boston, have planned to allow the entire estate to be sold into house lots, stipulating only that houses to be built thereon shall be of a certain value. With this aim in view the property has been placed in the hands of the well known real estate agents of Meriden, Holt & Stevens. The owners will furnish capital to build houses on the property if desired by purchasers of land. It bids fair, therefore, to assume that ere Meriden begins her second century as an incorporated town the picturesque Bradley estate will have assumed the appearances and evidences of a fashionable residence section.

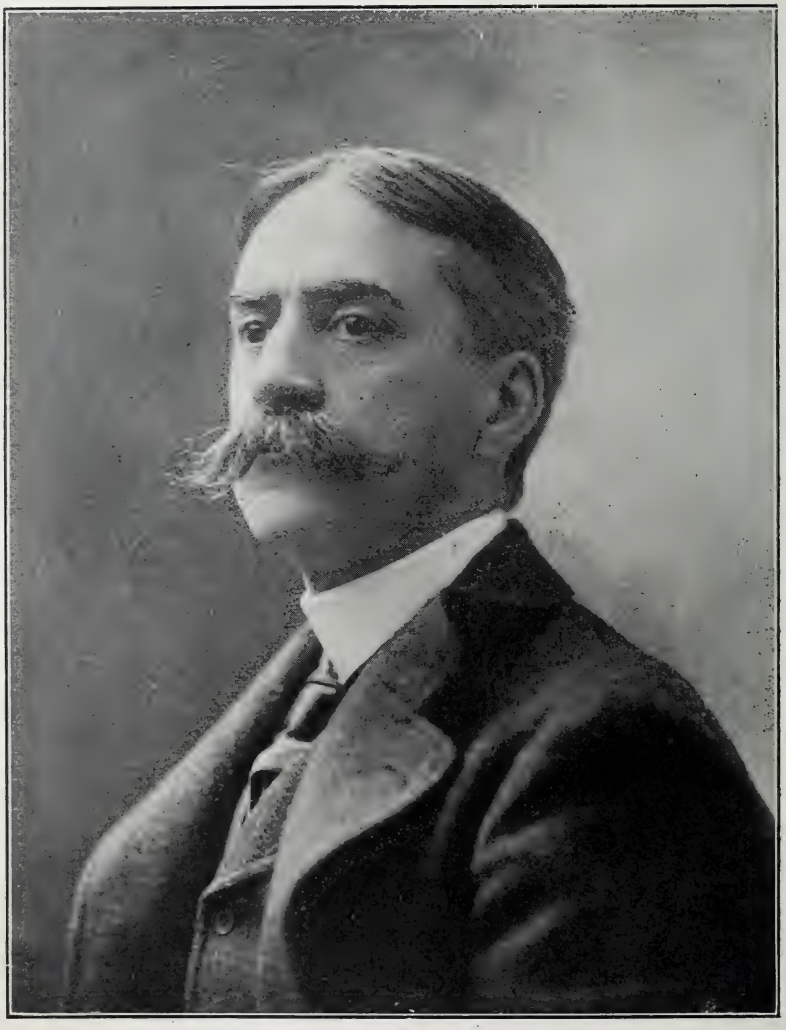
ANTHONY S. THOMAS.

Anthony S. Thomas, a prominent merchant of Meriden, was born at Newburgh, N. Y., July 14, 1845. He is the son of John W. and Mahala Thomas, his father being a native of Leeds, N. Y., and was an iron moulder by trade. His mother died when he was but five and a half years old and he was but thirteen when he was left an orphan. He received his early education in the common schools of his native town but later entered the public schools of Napanoch and afterwards continuing his schooling at Port Jervis, N. Y.; but finally returned and finished his education at Newburgh.

After the death of his father he secured employment in a general store at Cameron Mills, N. Y., where he secured his first insight into mercantile life. After some years' service in stores elsewhere he was engaged as salesman by John Hinchman & Co., a wholesale hosiery concern of New York City. After Mr. Thomas had acquired a large trade he became later associated with the wholesale department of Jordan, Marsh & Co., of Boston, for whom he continued representative until 1881 when he established himself in business in Meriden in the present location, and since which time the store has been noticeably enlarged at two different periods.

The store as first started gave employment to but a dozen clerks. The increase in the business has been both steady and rapid and the store, now requiring fifty clerks, and, with the several different departments, all little stores in themselves, furnishes a most desirable establishment for patronage. Mr. Thomas is a thorough business man in every sense and gives his personal supervision over the large establishment he conducts and has a most competent staff of assistants.

Although never prevailed upon to accept the nomination for public office, Mr. Thomas has proven a deep interest in the affairs of the town where he has now resided and done



Anthony J. Thomas



RESIDENCE OF A. S. THOMAS.

business for nearly a quarter of a century. He is known as a kind and considerate employer, standing high in both business and social circles. He is a member of the Meriden Board of Trade, the Business Men's Association and of the Home Club of Meriden. He is also a member of the Center Congregational society and of that society's committee served for several years as its chairman.

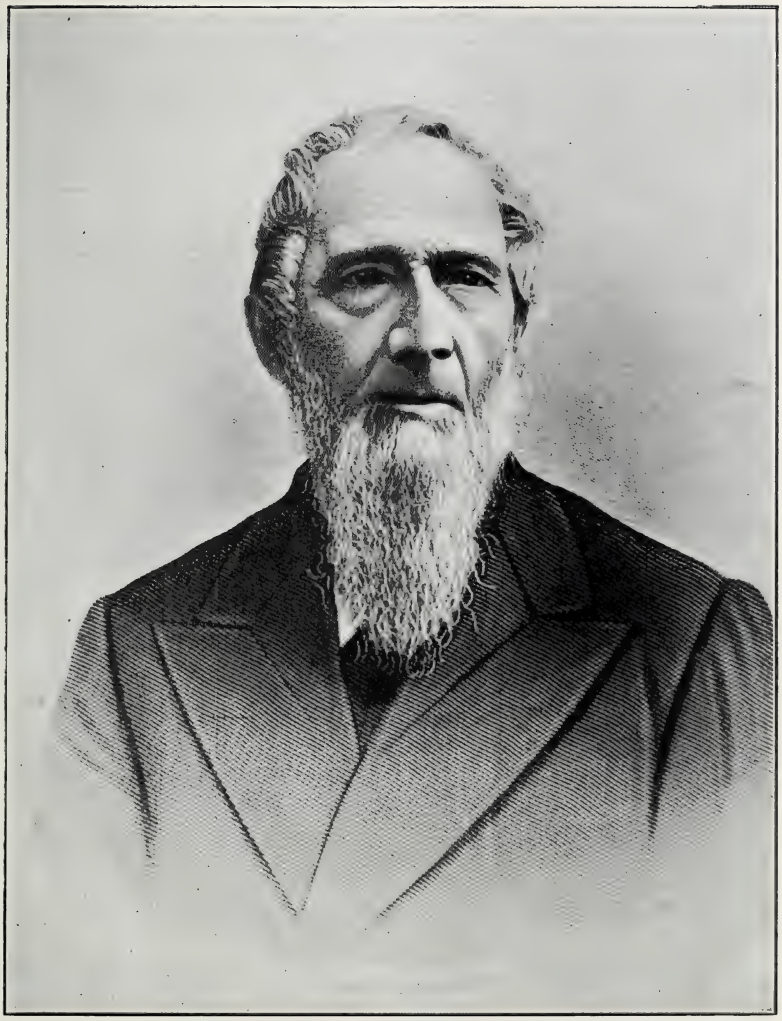
He was married in 1870 to Emma J., daughter of Edmund and Jane Russell. In 1891 he erected his present handsome residence on Broad street, where with his family he has since resided.

JOHN SUTLIFF.

John Sutliff, one of the deceased capitalists of Meriden, who followed Nelson Merriam as president of Foster, Merriam & Co., was born in Wolcott, Conn., August 2, 1802, and died June 22, 1897, at the remarkable age of ninety-five years. When sixteen years of age he bought his time from his father, to whom he gave a two years' note to the amount of $100 in payment. Going to Northford he first found work on a farm at $7.00 a month. He was industrious and economical from necessity and his steady habits and thrift enabled him, at the end of fifteen years, to engage in the manufacture of ivory combs at Southington with three other partners. After a successful start had been made by him and his partners, Albert Foster, one of the firm of Foster, Merriam & Co., who had confidence in Mr. Sutliff, invited him to purchase an interest in the concern and take charge of one of the departments, which he did; and he continued to work in the factory, in which he became still more extensively interested, devoting himself unceasingly to the interests of the manufacture of the goods; and from the time he entered the concern until his death, he never ceased to take an active part in the development of the business. At the time he entered the firm but five or six hands were employed and the rapid growth of the company's business was in no small measure due to his ability, energy anl management.

He was for many years a director of the First National bank, and at the time of his death was a trustee of the City Savings bank. During the latter years of his life he became known as one of the larger investors of the town and many of his profitable ventures were in the West.

Mr. Sutliff was twice married, first to Mary Ann Dayton of North Haven, to whom were born the following children: Mary Ann, who married Frederick A. Higby and died December 22, 1859; John A. and James R., the latter who at the time of his death had long since succeeded his father as president of Foster, Merriam & Co. On November 9, 1842, he was again married to Rebecca Miles, of Cheshire, to whom were born Abbie R. and Edgar M. Sutliff, both of whom died in infancy. Mr. Sutliff left a large estate.



John Suttiff

CHARLES L. FLOTO.

Charles L. Floto (deceased) was a well known German citizen, whose residence of half a century in the Silver City was marked by that industry which is a prominent characteristic of his nation. He was born in Germany in 1838, and ten years later he came to America with his mother who located at Warehouse Point. Not long after they removed to Broad Brook, then to Rockville, and during this time the boy was earning money for his mother and himself in the woolen mills. Before coming to Meriden Mr. Floto resided in Hotchkissville four years and subsequently in South Britain and Waterbury. In 1857 he was attracted by the industrial situation in this city and entered the employ of the Bradley & Hubbard Manufacturing Company where his capable workmanship was recognized and his connection with the shade and lamp department as its overseer continued for seventeen years.

A short period now passed when Mr. Floto left the shop to become a clerk in a shoe store, an occupation which he abandoned to take a position with Edward Miller & Co., but an opportunity to buy out John A. Parker's shoe business presented itself, and for twelve years Mr. Floto was a prosperous shoe merchant in the city.

But as time passed his health failed and he was forced to sell. A desire to visit his fatherland and the hope that a lengthy voyage would bring restoration to health, induced him to go abroad. He enjoyed an extended period of leisure traveling in Europe until 1884 when he returned to Meriden, only to plan a new itinerary for a southern trip in the winter of 1885.

In the meantime Mr. Floto's real estate transactions had been highly satisfactory and upon his return to Meriden he devoted his time to the improvement of his property at the corner of Gold and Crown streets where he had erected a residence in 1864. A number of other dwellings were built by Mr. Floto.

He decided to visit Europe again in 1888 and enjoyed revisiting places which had interested him before and in 1889 he took a pleasure trip to the south and west. From that time until Mr. Floto's death, which occurred January 7, 1901, he developed his real estate interests and became an active element in that portion of his adopted city where his property was located. It is to such citizens as Mr. Floto that Meriden owes her growth. They are the units which make the grand whole.

Mr. Floto's mother, who had lived to see her son a prosperous merchant and a retired land-owner, died in Meriden at the advanced age of eighty years. His wife was Marie U. Uschnig, a native of Klagenfurt, Austria, who was born May 24, 1837. She survived her husband four years, her death occurring September 1, 1905. They had no children of their own but left an adopted daughter, Marie. Mr. Floto had one brother, Frederick, a prominent resident of Rockville.



CHARLES L. FLOTO.

BELA CARTER.

It is true of many citizens that the esteem in which they are held is due to their conscientious discharge of duties whether of a civic or business character. Of such a type was Bela Carter, a descendant in the sixth generation of Rev. Thomas Carter, the first pastor of the church of Woburn, Mass. This clergyman, who was born in England and laid the foundation for his future career at St. John's college, University of Cambridge, where he received the degrees of B. A. and M. D., emigrated to America in 1635 in the ship "Planter." He went to Dedham, thence to Watertown and in 1642 was ordained at Woburn. A further study of Mr. Carter's ancestry reveals interesting characters, men who inherited from the pioneer his zeal, his honesty of purpose, his conscientiousness.

Bela Carter, son of Silas Johnson and Ruth (Vining) Carter, was born Febuary 6, 1828, in Hardwick, Mass., where he received a common school education. His natural ability manifested itself at the early age of sixteen when he began teaching penmanship. Not long after his attention was directed to the trade of painting and interior decorating, which he followed in Palmer, Mass., and Springfield, Mass., directly after, locating in Meriden in 1850, where he established himself in business two years later. He soon became interested in real estate in which he dealt extensively up to the time of his death and was considered to be an expert on Meriden realty, one of his largest transactions being the sale of the property known as "The Flats," upon a part of which stand the buildings now known as Factory E of the International Silver Company. He also acted as agent for several out of town savings banks for the placing of loans and incidental business. For twenty years he was a director in the First National bank of Meriden. In early life he was a Whig, but later became identified with the Republican party.

The qualities which he displayed in his business relations gained for him the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen so that during the Civil war, in 1862, he was elected first selectman of Meriden and was re-elected twice thereafter. For four years he was treasurer of the military fund. He sat for three terms in the Court of Common Council as councilman or alderman and served for six years as chairman of the Corner School District committee. For several years he was a member of the Boad of Assessors. He undoubtedly could have had higher political honors had he evinced a willingness to accept them.

In 1850 Mr. Carter married Mary J., daughter of Captain Butler and Polly (Converse) Barrett, of Belchertown, Mass., who survives her husband and is a loved and honored resident of Meriden. Of their eight children, Henry Johnson, Agnes Smith and Wilbur Barrett, died within one week of diphtheria. The others are: Elmer Bela, a sheep ranch-



Bela Carter

man in Montana, who married Laura M. Edwards, of Billings, Mont.; Mary C., widow of the late Edward H. White, of Meriden; Bertha C., wife of Frederick E. Bemis, of Meriden; Robert William and Annie Z., both of Meriden.

Mr. Carter, after retaining his fine hold on Meriden interests for forty-three years, died September 28, 1893, before old age had really claimed him. He was buried in West cemetery.

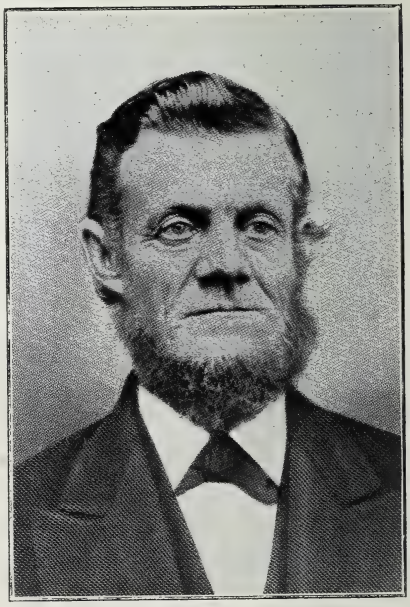
J. T. POMEROY.

The ancestry of the late James Tibbals Pomeroy embraces Connecticut families who helped to lay a solid foundation for the Nutmeg state's greatness. Many of the men were rugged tillers of the soil who derived their physical endurance and mental firmness among the rocks and loam where they labored as in God's vineyard.

The Pomeroy name is as old almost as the hills and its bearers have no cause to feel ashamed of their forebears.

His father, Noah Pomeroy, was by turns a farmer and an itinerant tin peddler in those days when this occupation was lucrative, highly honorable and full of the charm and spice of life. He was likewise a manufacturer of tin and again a farmer. That he was held in the highest respect by his townsmen is evidenced by the public offices he filled, all that were in the gift of the people. The Universalist church of this city was organized in his house and Mr. Pomeroy was one of its most able supporters. The greater a man's mental caliber, the greater the duties that are borne by him; it is quite natural, therefore, to find Mr. Pomeroy one of the first directors of the Meriden bank, and later its president.

James Pomeroy was born in this city and turned naturally to agricul-



JAMES TIBBALS POMEROY.

ture, owning and operating his father's large stock estate in East Meriden. His knowledge of rural methods and his comprehension of a situation which called for unity of thought, purpose and action among the farming element led him to organize the Meriden Grange, a society to which he gave largely of his time

and experience. He was also connected with Meriden Center Lodge, 69, I. O. O. F.

As a loyal son who subscribed to the sentiment of his father, Mr. Pomeroy adopted the faith of the church whose foundation his father had laid in Meriden and was a devout believer in Universalism until his death.

Delila F. Guild, a daughter of William H. Guild, of Middletown, Conn., became Mr. Pomeroy's wife. Their children were: Lenora E., who married Joseph Beckett, of Meriden; Nellie J., wife of Richard J. Molloy, of Meriden; Carrie F., deceased, wife of David Flansburgh; Charles L. and William Harrison, who married Lura Booth. Mr. Pomeroy died December 21, 1891, and was buried in the East cemetery; his wife residing on Broad street, Meriden, still survives and is a staunch adherent of the Universalist church, and a member of Meriden Grange.

RUSSELL HALL.

Russell Hall, one of the many substantial citizens of Meriden, a large dealer in grocery store supplies and woodenware, and a manufacturer of tinware, as well as a large property owner, was born in Meriden, July 26, 1835. He is lineally descended from that John Hall, who was born in England, 1605, and died in Wallingford, Conn., 1676, one of the proprietors of Hartford. Russell Hall is also descended from Rev. Samuel Hall, and Anne Law, whose father, Jonathan Law, was governor of Connecticut. He is the son of Orrin Hall and Anna G. Hall, a daughter of Brenton Hall, of Meriden. His father, like several men of the town, who afterwards became prominent in the manufacturing and business life of the locality, during the past century, in early life drove a peddler's team and supplied the people in portions of the southern states with the product of Meriden factories. He spent the last years of his life on his farm at East Meriden.

Russell Hall, as a boy, worked on the home farm during his spare time and was educated in the district school, under the veteran teacher, James Atkins. Inheriting a taste for trading from his father, at the age of eighteen, with a small sum of money which he had saved from his previous earnings, he engaged in the making of tinware and supplied peddlers with the then small product of his industry. At the end of eight years, his business had increased to such an extent that he was warranted in adding grocery store supplies and established himself in his present business, which has increased to that of the largest in his line, in this part of the state. His reputation for dealing in honest goods at the lowest jobbing prices, together with his energy and popularity among the trade, have been prominent factors in his success. With the aid of traveling men, he looks carefully after the wants of his wholesale trade and from his long and successful business career, is one of the best known of Connecticut wholesalers.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Russell Hall

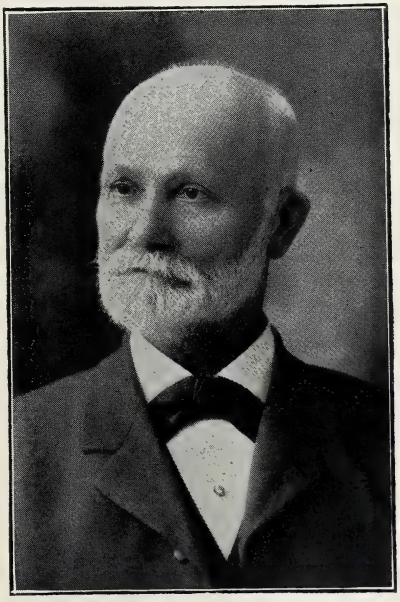
He has ever been known as an enthusiastic man of business, and he has made many profitable investments in real estate; and property which he has purchased in different parts of the city has invariably shown the result of the ownership of a fair minded landlord. His residence on East Main street is one of the handsomest in Meriden and is one of the most thoroughly built domiciles in this vicinity. In 1905 he erected near it, the construction of which was also under his personal supervision, another handsome residence for his son. Mr. Hall is known as one of the thoroughly upright men of Meriden, and is highly esteemed in the community. His generosity has been oftentimes demonstrated to his fellow citizens and within a year of the present writing, he donated $1,000 to the Curtis Memorial Library. His interest in the affairs of his native town seems to be unbounded. Mr. Hall is interested in the First Baptist church, and in politics is a Democrat.

He has been twice married: First to Emily Preston, daughter of Ira Preston, deceased. He was again married June 28, 1866, to Mary E., daughter of Ransom and Sarah (Twiss) Baldwin, and six children have been born to them: Howard Baldwin, who was recently married to Gertrude B. Wetmore, of Wallingford, Conn., being the only one surviving.

A. L. STEVENS.

This veteran real estate dealer and resident of South Meriden, was born in Naugatuck, January 30, 1829. At the age of six years he moved to Oneida, N. Y., with his parents, and in that town he first attended school. At the age of fifteen he returned to Naugatuck and lived with his old uncle, completing his education at the Waterbury High school.

In 1854 he married Julia E. Beecher, of Naugatuck, and in 1865 he



A. L. STEVENS.

moved his family to South Meriden and entered the Meriden Cutlery factory where he worked four or five years at his trade as die sinker.

It has been happily said that there is a divinity which shapes our ends rough hew them as we will. Mr. Stevens began as a mechanic and probably had not the slightest idea

that any other ship was sailing into his port, but when Albert Otis was made chief of police in Meriden an impulse to enter a new field became a chance and Mr. Stevens bought out the interests of the new city official in the firm of Frank and Albert Otis, from which date he has been continuously engaged in the fire insurance and real estate business. Two years later in 1872, he bought out the remaining interests of Frank Otis.

Mr. Stevens' first office was in a small one-story building which stood on the present site of the Byxbee block, but for the past thirty years his offices have been in the Wilcox block. Up to 1897 he had a steamship and money draft agency and for many years he was the only steamship agent in Meriden.

Mr. Stevens' business career has been an honorable one, and no man in Meriden enjoys to a greater extent the confidence of the community.

Mr. Stevens' political sympathies are Democratic, and, while he has never sought office, he served one year on the board of selectmen. He belongs to Hancock lodge, I. O. O. F., and the A. O. U. W. For many years he has been a member of the First Methodist church of which he is steward.

At his residence in South Meriden comfort and plenty are in evidence and here Mr. and Mrs. Stevens are enjoying marital relations that have extended over a period of fifty-one years. They have one daughter, Mrs. Albert Rice, of Cheshire.

FRANCIS ATWATER.

Francis Atwater, one of the more prominent figures of Meriden business life and president of the Journal Publishing Company, was born in Plymouth, Litchfield county, Connecticut, in 1858. He comes from distinguished ancestry and is descended from David Atwater, the first signer of the planters' agreement of the New Haven colony in 1638. On the maternal side he is a direct descendant of Benjamin Fenn, the first magistrate of New Haven colony.

As a boy he came to Meriden and became associated with the printing and publishing business and after he had learned the trade of a printer, at the youthful age of sixteen, he was given charge of the mechanical department of the Meriden Recorder, which at that time was the leading paper of the town. At twenty years of age, he established the Windermere Weekly Forum, in Wallingford, which he published for one year until it was sold. He afterwards went to Hartford and became assistant foreman of the composing room of the Hartford Courant. Later going west on account of ill health, he located in California and became manager of the Red Bluff Sentinel, which paper he carried on for a time. Returning to Meriden with renewed health he established a job printing office on Perkins street and founded the Meriden Sunday News, but in 1886 when the Meriden Evening Press ceased publication, Mr. At-

water embraced the opportunity, and with Frank E. Sands, Lew Allen and Thomas L. Reilly, launched the Meriden Daily Journal which has ever since thoroughly covered the evening field, each year gaining in circulation, advertising patronage and influence, until it has become one of the best paying publications in Connecticut. It occupies its own fire-proof building, in which The Journal Publishing Company now possesses one of the most complete printing plants in all New England as is stated at some length elsewhere in this volume. Since its incorporation April 2, 1886, Mr. Atwater has been the head; and to his able leadership is the success of the now large business considerably due.

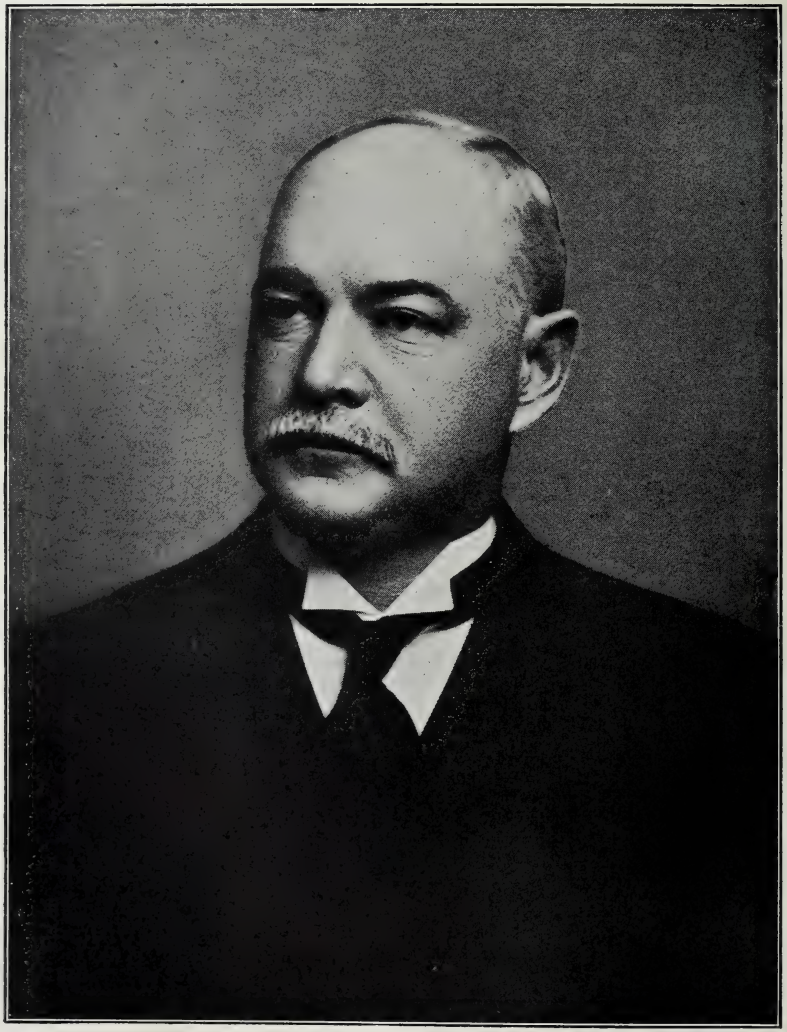
Mr. Atwater has been a prime mover in many other large enterprises, in all of which he has been eminently successful. He was one of the organizers of the Meriden, Southington & Compounce Tramway Company, the capital for which was raised largely through his effort and to the construction of the road he also gave his personal supervision.

After the close of the Spanish-American war, he became financial agent of Clara Barton of Red Cross fame and honor, who had known him from childhood. At her request he accompanied her to Cuba whither she went to establish asylums for the unfortunate reconcentrados. While in Havana, Mr. Atwater saw an opportunity to start the first American newspaper, the Havana Journal, and of this newspaper, which became an organ wielding an immense influence, he retained the control until he received an offer from a syndicate to dispose of it most advantageously. He afterwards and without relinquishing his interests in Meriden, purchased the Daily News of New Britain which he carried on for a time. He then bought the Waterbury Daily Republican, the only morning newspaper in the Naugatuck Valley, which he conducted until he placed it on a paying basis and then sold it at a handsome profit.

In 1905 he was chosen a director and president of the Washington State Colonization Company, extensive owners and buyers of lands in the state of Washington and which has within the past year established a large colony in that delightful residential state.

Mr. Atwater is also the sole owner of the T. H. Hubbard Paper Co., of Boston, Mass., extensive wholesale dealers of book and writing papers and cardboards.

In local affairs Mr. Atwater is particularly active and influential. He was one of the organizers and for several years president of the Meriden Board of Trade, which organization has succeeded in bringing several industries to Meriden, and in which Mr. Atwater has always been a leading spirit. Of the Centennial celebration of Meriden he was not only one of the originators, but as corresponding secretary of the committee of 400 or more citizens, has been in-



FRANCIS ATWATER.



RESIDENCE OF FRANCIS ATWATER.

strumental in bringing about the notable celebration of 1906. In 1904 after having persistently refused to become a candidate for any public office, he entered the senatorial contest of that year and the Democratic party which honored him with the nomination, suffered its usual defeat of a presidential year; but Mr. Atwater was far in the lead of the rest of the ticket. Mr. Atwater is a member of the Home Club, and occupies a comfortable residence which he purchased some years ago of William A. Kelsey and which is located on the site of the historic old Central Tavern, corner Broad and East Main streets.

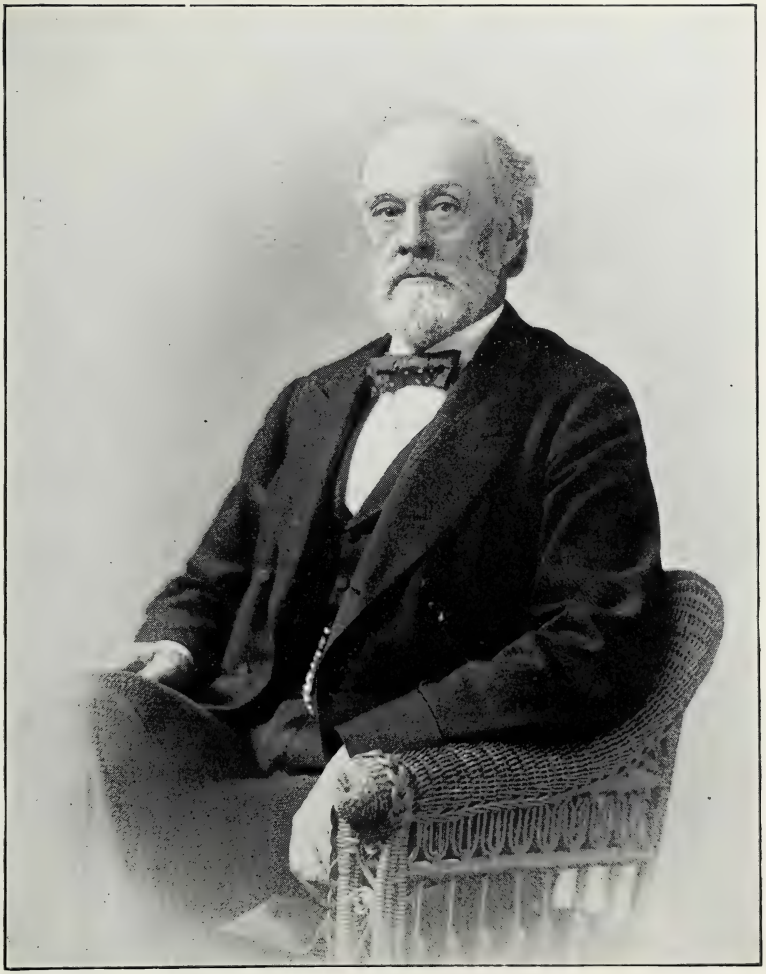
Mr. Atwater, whose life has been more than active as people generally live, has found time by burning the midnight oil to do considerable literary work, and has compiled the History of Plymouth, Conn., History of Kent, Conn., and the History and Genealogy of the Atwater Family from 1638 to the present time.

Mr. Atwater was married in 1879 to Helena J. Sellew, to whom was born May 10, 1880, a son, Dorence Keith Atwater, who died August 23, 1900.

O. H. PLATT.

Orville Hitchcock Platt, LL.D., Meriden's greatest public man, was born July 19, 1827, at Washington, Conn., and died April 21, 1905. Educated in the district schools of Washington and later at the academy known as the "Gunnery," he remained on the home farm until twenty years of age when he began the study of law and was afterwards admitted to the bar in 1849. He then went to Towanda, Pa., where he remained six months in a law office, coming to Meriden in 1851 and up to the time of his death was thereafter identified with the town and made his home here.

Mr. Platt's early law practice in Meriden was beset with the usual difficulties of the young lawyer struggling for position in the world and in his early life he gave no perceptible promise of becoming a man of national repute. Shortly after coming to Meriden he became associate editor of the "Whig," the revenue from which made up for his lack of fees. In 1853 he was elected judge of probate, which office he held for three years and in 1855 and 1856 was chosen clerk of the Connecticut Senate. He was one of the original members of the Republican party and from 1856 took an active part in politics, his influence in that party increasing every year. In 1857 he was elected secretary of state, which office he filled for one term. In 1861 and 1862 he served in the state senate and in 1864 was elected to the state legislature, when he was appointed chairman of the judiciary committee. In 1869 he again served in the legislature from Meriden and was then elected speaker of the house, after which service it was his desire to retire permanently to private life and resume his neglected law practice



ORVILLE H. PLATT.

which, however, he was not permitted to do. In 1877 he was appointed state's attorney of New Haven county, which office he held for two years.

In 1879 he was first elected by the state legislature to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Senator Orris S. Ferry, Republican, his election, however, being a surprise, for he was chosen on the thirty-eighth ballot, through the successful work of Senator H. Wales Lines and others who took advantage of the situation when a compromise candidate had to be found. His career in the United States Senate, from the time when he first took his seat, was most remarkable, and he was always his own successor, being re-elected at the expiration of every succeeding term until his regretted decease. For many years before his death he was counted as one of the most influential figures at the National capital, whose counsel was much sought and relied upon by the president and members of the cabinet. Without resorting to the tactics of the politician he became the dean of the senate and attained the highest legislative rank in the Union. Always a man of rare example, he developed into a statesman in every sense and was an orator who could adapt himself instantly to every occasion. He was a perfect master of diction and his irresistible logic and sound reasoning made him a strong power in the highest legislative body in the land. His loyalty to the government and to the Republican party was never questioned and his honesty of purpose, coupled with the remarkable ability which he developed in the latter part of his life, won him the respect, confidence and love of the nation. He was one of the great men of the United States who was never puffed up by public praise but treated every man whether he were great or small with the same consideration and deference. His modest bearing under all circumstances made it always apparent that he was a true gentleman.

In Meriden, where he resided, he never became greater than his fellow-townsmen by whom he was greatly beloved for his many good traits as a citizen. Without show or ostentation he was the promoter of more christian and philanthropic work than was ever generally known.

During the last years of his life he occupied a summer place at Washington, Conn., his native town, and there his funeral services were held and which were attended almost unanimously by the leading citizens of Meriden as well as many prominent in national affairs.

ABIRAM CHAMBERLAIN.

Meriden is proud to number among her citizens a governor of Connecticut, Abiram Chamberlain, who held that office for two years, having been elected in November, 1903.

He is descended from sturdy New England stock, and was born December 7, 1837, at Colebrook, Conn. He is a son of Abiram

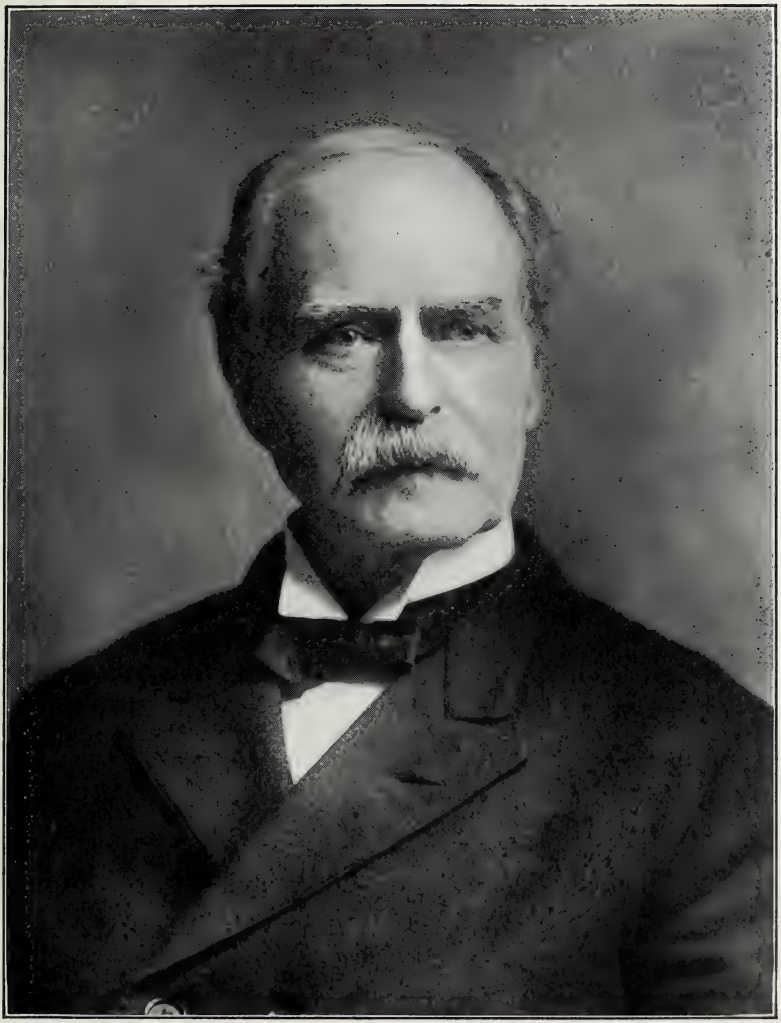


Photo by H. T. Shaw.

A. Chamberlain

and Sophronia (Burt) Chamberlain and has been a resident of Meriden for thirty-eight years. After obtaining his education, he began his business career in the New Britain National bank in 1867, there resigning the position of teller to become cashier of the Home National bank of Meriden, and he has been president of the latter financial institution since 1881, having been elected to that office upon the death of Eli Butler, the former president. His efficiency as its executive head, has earned for him an enviable reputation, not only in the business and financial circles of Meriden, but throughout the state.

For many years he has been identified with other enterprises. He was one of the promoters and directors of the Meriden & Waterbury railroad; president of the Meriden Fire Insurance company; one of the promoters and president of the Winthrop Hotel company; a director of the Meriden hospital; for many years a vice president of the Meriden Savings bank; a director also of the Meriden Cutlery Co., Edward Miller & Co., of Meriden, and the Stanley works of New Britain. He is also president of the Connecticut Bankers' association and a vice-president of the American Bankers' association. He is affiliated with several social and fraternal organizations, including the Home and Colonial clubs and has long been identified with the First Congregational church of Meriden.

He has always been known as a staunch Republican and has held many important public offices in the discharge of the duties of which he has proved his ability and trustworthiness. In 1877 he represented the Town of Meriden in the state legislature; he was nominated by acclamation for state comptroller at the Republican convention, held at New Haven, September 5 and 6, 1900, and served in that office for two years. He has also rendered Meriden valuable service as a member of the city government.

As governor, Mr. Chamberlain added to his host of friends throughout the state; his administration was one which reflects credit upon Connecticut, and is justly regarded with pride by the citizens of Meriden. His wide knowledge of affairs of state enabled him to transact the duties of the office most acceptably. The degree of LL.D. conferred upon him by Wesleyan University in 1903 was but one of the many tokens of appreciation he has received in recognition of his service as governor.

He was married November 21, 1872, to Miss Charlotte E. Roberts, who has been active in philanthropic matters in Meriden, and her connection with the city hospital will not be forgotten by the people. Their sons are Albert Roberts and Harold Burt Chamberlain. The elder son is a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific school of Yale University and Yale Law school and now engaged in the practice of law in Meriden. He was also Governor Chamberlain's secretary during his administration.

HENRY DRYHURST.

Henry Dryhurst, postmaster, has lived nearly all his life in Meriden. He came here in 1865 from Taunton, Mass., and he had previously resided in Providence, R. I. He is the son of Henry Dryhurst and Eleanor (Lewis) Dryhurst, and he has brothers and sisters living as follows: Louisa E., wife of Montgomery R. Budd; Rowland L., of Rockford, Ill.; Hugh, of Hartford; Eleanor, of New York City; Laura A., of Meriden, and Emma, wife of Edwin W. Hall, of Wallingford.

Mr. Dryhurst attended the district schools until his fourteenth year, when, being employed days by the late George R. Willmot, he began attending the evening school kept by the Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Pettee, and later received instruction in the higher studies from Alfred E. Ives and Emily J. Leonard.

In 1877 Mr. Dryhurst secured a partial clerkship in the post-office (there being in those days no civil service), under Postmaster Erwin D. Hall. Being thus employed but a few hours a day Mr. Dryhurst decided, in connection with his duties in the post office, to take up the study of the law.

He read law in the offices of Ratcliffe Hicks, George A. Fay and of the late Orville H. Platt, and was admitted to the New Haven county bar in 1884.

In 1890 Mr. Dryhurst was appointed postmaster of Meriden by President Benjamin Harrison. When his term as postmaster expired a change in the national administration obliged Mr. Dryhurst to resume the practice of law. Four years later, however, he was reappointed postmaster by President McKinley and in 1898 his third appointment was signed by President Roosevelt.

In early manhood Mr. Dryhurst gave attention to politics, has served several years as chairman of the Republican town committee, and has attended as delegate, state, congressional, senatorial and city conventions of his party. From its organization Mr. Dryhurst has been chairman of the First Meriden Building and Loan association, and he was chairman of the committee which invited President Roosevelt to visit Meriden and entertained him August 22, 1902.

When Mr. Dryhurst first assumed the duties of postmaster the Meriden office was in the second class and had six carriers and six clerks. The office entered the first class during Mr. Dryhurst's first term of service, and has now seventeen regular clerks, twenty regular carriers, and seven stations.

It was Mr. Dryhurst who first conceived the idea of having a federal building for the Meriden post office. He interested the late Senator O. H. Platt in the project, who obtained an appropriation of $100,000 from the Congress for that purpose. The site at the corner of Colony and Brooks streets was selected for the building, which will be erected as soon as an

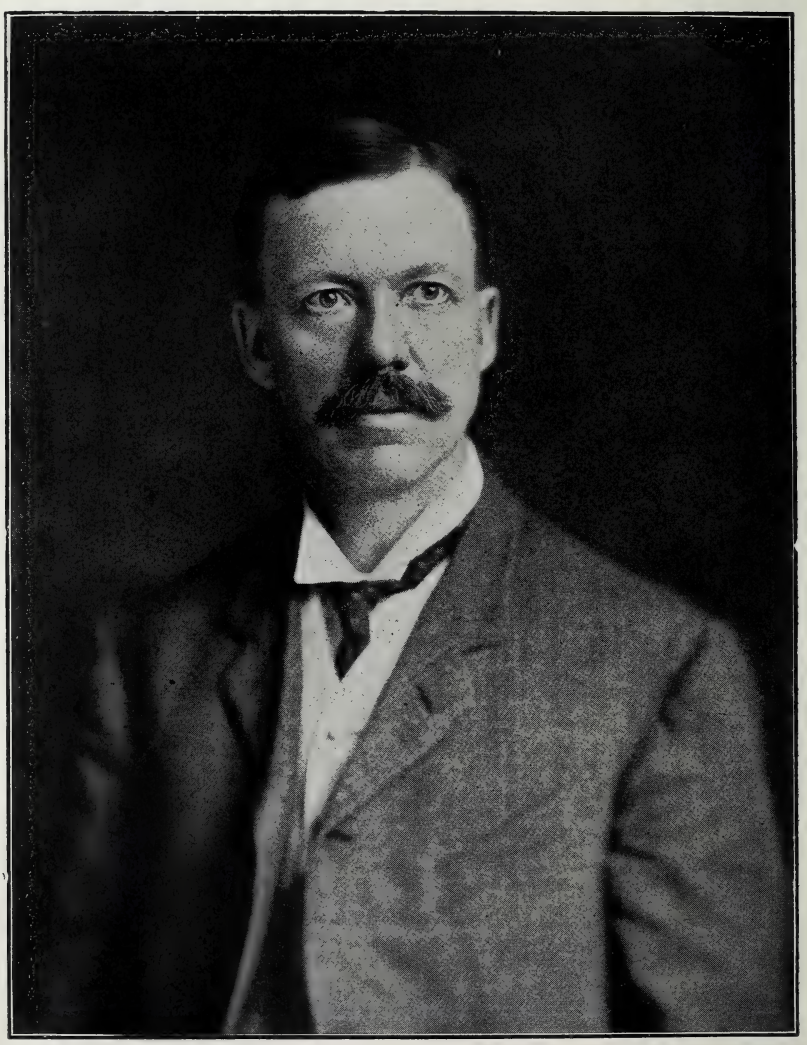


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Henry Dryhurst.

additional appropriation is available to enlarge the present plans.

Mr. Dryhurst married Miss Margaret C. Dutcher, of Sag Harbor, and they have the following children: Jennie E., wife of Guy A. Palmer; Henry Jr.; and Orville J.

He is a member of the First Baptist church and of the Home and Colonial Clubs.

THOMAS L. REILLY.

Thomas Lawrence Reilly, mayor of Meriden in 1906, was born in New Britain, September 20, 1858, and received his early education there in the town schools. Later he attended the State Normal school, from which he graduated in 1876, but instead of teaching he took the position of town clerk's assistant, which he held for a year. Soon after, he engaged as a reporter on the Hartford Sunday Globe. In the fall of 1877 he came to Meriden with his parents and entered the law office of Judge D. J. Donahoe, now of Middletown, remaining a student there for one year. Disturbed by the death of his mother and the removal of Judge Donahoe to Middletown, Mr. Reilly found circumstances unfavorable to the continuance of his legal studies and took a position as book-keeper with J. F. Butler, continuing with him until 1880, when he became the Meriden correspondent of the New Haven Union. Later Mr. Reilly became connected with the Meriden Penny Press, under J. H. Mabbett, filling a reportorial position, and still later was associated in a like capacity with W. F. Graham, on the Meriden Republican, remaining with this latter journal until December, 1885, when he went to the New Haven Register. He was that paper's legislative reporter during the session of 1886. In April, 1886, with Francis Atwater, F. E. Sands and Lew Allen, he formed The Journal Publishing company, and was made secretary of the company and city editor of the paper, with which he has been ever since connected.

An active Democrat, he has been one of the leaders in his party in Meriden, and in the presidential campaign of 1900 he was elected chairman of the Town committee, and the Republican majority was reduced from 1,447 in 1896 to 54 in 1900.

Mr. Reilly has taken an active part in all progressive movements in Meriden; is clerk of the school board, a director of the Curtis Memorial public library, and prominent in social and fraternal organizations, being a member of Meriden lodge, No. 35, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, in which he filled the office of exalted ruler for two terms; of the Amaranth club, in which he has filled the office of president for three years; a charter member and organizer of Silver City council, No. 2, Knights of Columbus; a member of the Royal Arcanum and the Maccabees. Much is due to Mr. Reilly for the stand he has taken in regard to sports in Meriden.

In 1884, in Blackstone, Mass., he was married to Marie E. Rowen, a



THOMAS L. REILLY.

school teacher of that town. To this union have been born seven children, Robert, Katherine, Mary, Louis, Arthur, Rose and Agnes.

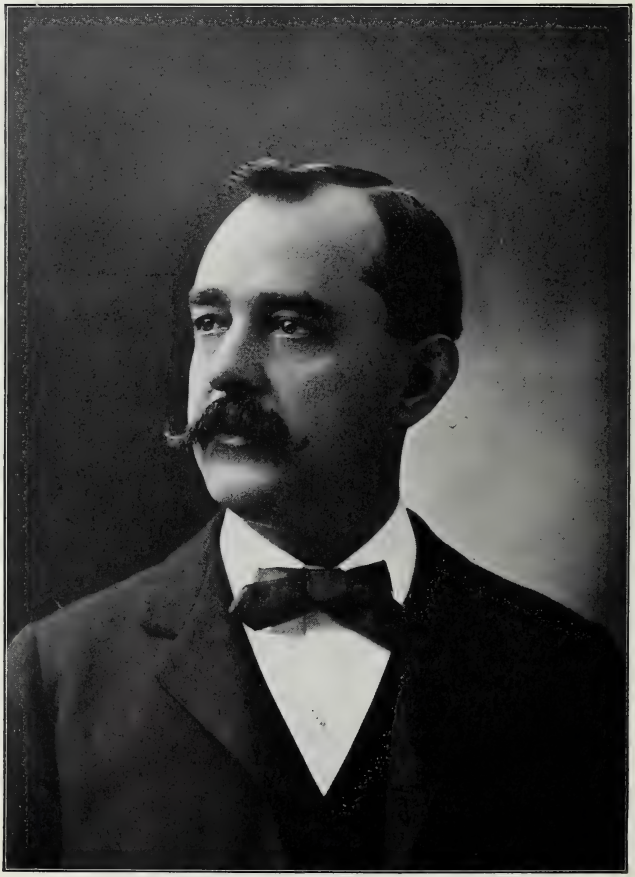
HERMAN HESS.

Herman Hess, the present town and city clerk of Meriden, and who has held these offices for a longer period than any other man in the history of the town, was born in Meriden, April 4, 1861. He is of German parentage and the son of Frederick and Johanna (Yooke) Hess. His father, whose death occurred in 1898, from his early manhood was a respected and industrious citizen of Meriden and was one of the first of his nationality to settle in this part of the state. He was for eighteen years employed in the mechanical department of the Meriden Britannia Company and pursued the calling of a burnisher until his death. He was a veteran of the Civil war, an honored member of Merriam Post, G. A. R., and both he and his wife were devoted members of the German Lutheran church of Meriden.

Herman Hess, than whom the residents believe there is none better fitted by ability and disposition to keep the records of both the town and the city, is a man liberally educated but his knowledge has been acquired largely outside of that limited education which his parents were able to give him. He attended the public schools only until he was eleven years of age, when he left to become a cash boy in the store of W. H. Babb. He began on a salary of $2.50 a week and remained in the store five years, during which time he spent his evenings in home study thereby depriving himself the pleasures enjoyed by other boys.

In 1877 he obtained a clerkship in the employ of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., and served in the freight offices of that company both in Meriden and New Haven, and one year in the ticket department. In 1882, he became a bookkeeper at the office of the Meriden Malleable Iron Co., where he remained for five years more, and added to his reputation as a skillful and accurate accountant.

He began his public career as city auditor in 1883, when he was elected to fill a vacancy. In 1886, he was elected town clerk and registrar of vital statistics. In the following city election, of the same year, he was also chosen city clerk and has been re-elected each subsequent year to the present writing and since 1892, although a Democrat, has been honored with the nomination of both parties. His incumbency of the offices has been especially pleasing to the citizens of the town, for not only has he fulfilled the complicated duties in a manner most satisfactory to the public, but he has familiarized himself so thoroughly with the town and city records that his services in his official capacity have become almost invaluable. Mr. Hess, from his promi-



Herman Lee

nence in public affairs, has naturally become one of the leading citizens of the town and no resident enjoys perhaps a larger personal popularity. Through his industry he has become somewhat endowed with earthly goods.

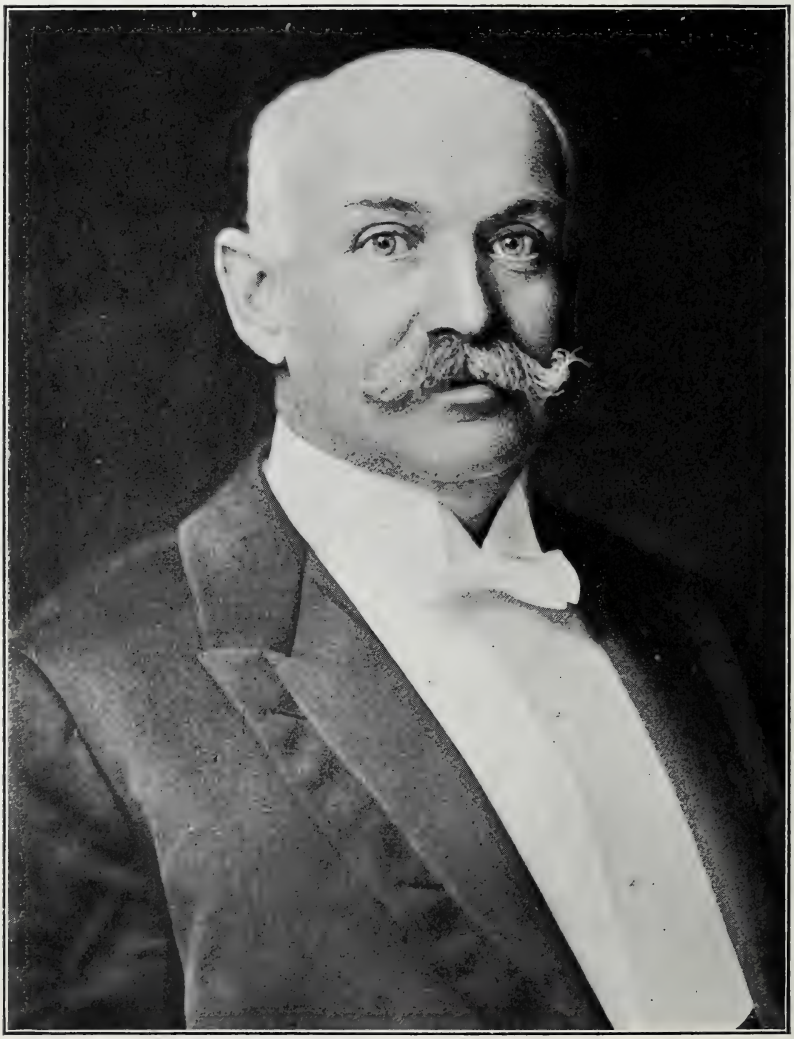
He is a trustee of the Meriden Savings Bank and since 1900 he has been one of the directors of the Meriden National Bank, of which institution he is also the vice president. He is also a director of the Meriden Permanent Building & Loan Association. He is prominent as well in the Masonic fraternity, being at this writing, eminent commander of St. Elmo Commandery, K. T., and affiliated with Pyramid Temple, A. A. O. N., Mystic Shrine. He is also a member of Meriden Center Lodge, No. 97, F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, No. 27, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, No. 22, R. & S. M.; Meriden Center Lodge, 68, I. O. O. F.; Myrtle Lodge, Knights of Pythias; is a member of the Elks and the American Order of Foresters, Meriden Turn Verein, Home Club and Colonial Club, and one of the directors of the Meriden Board of Trade.

On May 28, 1883, he was married to Eugenia DeCrosby, daughter of Norman W. and Ruth Ann (Norwood) Pomeroy. Their children have been Raymond Pomeroy and Ruth Imogene; the latter died in 1887. In his religious sympathies, he is with his family, an attendant of St. Paul's Universalist church.

IRVING L. HOLT.

Irving Lucius Holt, one of the leading business men of Meriden and tax collector of the town since 1893, was born in Somers, Conn., September 5, 1851. He is a worthy descendant of one of the oldest families in Connecticut and is a son of Elijah and Nancy L. (Harwood) Holt. He traces his ancestry directly back to Nicholas Holt, born in England about 1602, who was one of the passengers on the ship "James," of London, which sailed from Southampton and arrived after two months' passage in Boston in 1635. He became one of the first settlers of Newbury, Mass., and in 1644 removed from there to become one of the first settlers of Andover, Mass. Among his later forefathers was Caleb Holt, an early settler of Willington, Conn., one of the ratifiers of the constitution; Royal Holt, of Willington, married Lavina Lamb, a native of Vermont, whose father served in the Revolutionary war from the age of sixteen as a waiter boy for George Washington and continued in that capacity until the close of the war.

I. L. Holt obtained his early education in the district schools of Rockville, Conn., which was interrupted for a brief period by a service at the Glasgow thread mills, but continued his education at Hall's boarding school at Ellington, Conn., and Williston seminary at Easthampton, Mass. The family removing to Meriden



L. Yoe.

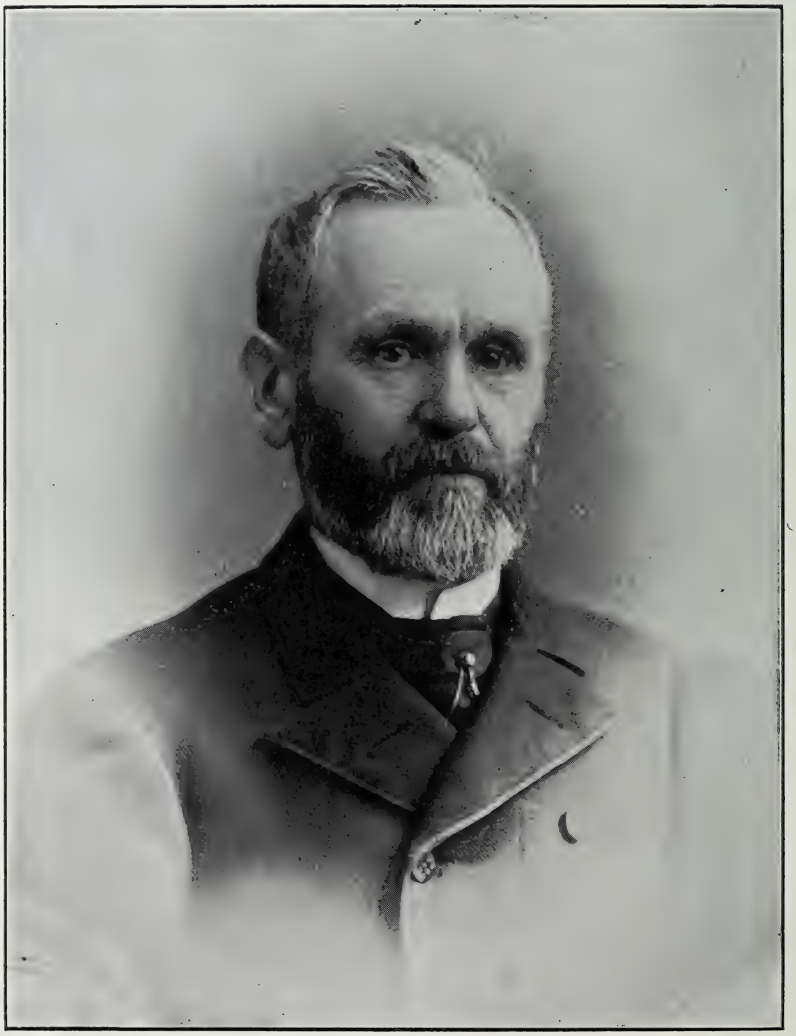
in 1870, he went to South Manchester to teach his first school but soon after was engaged as a teacher at the State School for Boys in Meriden, where he remained for two and a half years. He afterwards took a course at the Sheffield Scientific school at Yale, class of 1874; after which he became principal of the Prattsville school, Meriden, which position he held for one year and resigned to take up the insurance business in the office of the Meriden Fire Insurance Co., where he was assistant secretary, continuing with that company nineteen years until the honorable closing of its business, but March 1, 1892, with Frank A. Stevens, formed the firm of Holt & Stevens, which has ever since been a leading insurance and real estate concern and whose business has grown to large proportions.

Mr. Holt has always been a staunch Republican and for many years has been a prominent worker in the ranks of that party. He has served as chairman of the Republican Town committee, registrar of voters and since 1893 has served continuously in his present office as collector of town taxes, and during which time he has collected over a million and a half dollars for the town. He is prominent in social circles, being an influential member of the Home Club, is also connected with Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T., of Meriden.

He was married August 11, 1875, to Ella M. Rice, who died January 17, 1903, and who was a descendant of one of the oldest families of Connecticut and for many generations identified with this locality. The children to this marriage are: Harry H., born May 28, 1878, a graduate of the Meriden High school, who for several years has been associated with his father in business; and Ralph G., who died in infancy.

WILLIAM LEWIS.

William Lewis, a prominent resident and financier of Meriden, now deceased, although a native of Queens county, Ireland, lived in Meriden nearly all his useful life. He was born in 1832 and as a child came to this country with his parents. He was given a good common school education and he began business life in Meriden in a modest way by opening a confectionery and toy store on Main street. In 1882 he retired from mercantile business, having acquired some little property, including the historic brick block situated at the corner of High School avenue and West Main street. This block he purchased from the late Levi Bradley, of Cheshire, and comprised the first brick block of its class in Meriden. A Democrat in politics, he became a candidate for town and city treasurer, his well known integrity secured him the election, although the town has ever been Republican, and he held the office continuously for several years. He was once a second selectman and served as a member of the Corner school com-



Wm. H. Lewis

mittee. As one of the incorporators, directors and trustees of the City Savings bank Mr. Lewis was highly honored in banking circles and his success in real estate ventures made him an important factor in business life.

For many years he resided in the brick block which he owned on West Main street but in 1895 he erected a fine residence on Platt avenue where he spent the last few years of his life and which since his death has been occupied by his three daughters and grandson, William Lewis Dorsey.

He was married to Margaret Flynn who died in Meriden in 1880 and to whom the following children were born: John T., May L. (Mrs. M. L. Dorsey, of the dry goods firm of Dorsey & Harrison), Harriet A., Augusta J. and Catherine T., all of Meriden. Although a few years past the alloted three score and ten, Mr. Lewis was a man of strong, or wiry, physique and none supposed him to be in any other than the best of health. On the morning of the day of his death, June 18, 1905, he was up and about his home but died from a violent hemorrhage of the stomach, before medical aid, which was hastily summoned, could reach him. His three daughters, all of whom are young women of rare personal accomplishments, and well-known in the social circles in which they are prominent figures, were the recipients of the fullest sympathy of the community as was evidenced in many ways.

The funeral services of Mr. Lewis were held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church, of which he was an influential member. A solemn high mass of requiem was celebrated, of which the following clergymen participated: Rev. J. T. Lynch, celebrant; Rev. P. Skelly, of Litchfield, deacon, and Rev. William Judge, master of ceremonies. The burial was in the Lewis plot at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

FREDERICK P. LOOMIS.

Frederick Porter Loomis, station agent of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad at Meriden, and a young man of marked executive ability, was born in Meriden May 4, 1871. He is the son of William C. Loomis, a veteran of the Civil war, who served as chief bugler in the First Connecticut Cavalry, and who was for some years an officer of the State Reform school. His mother was Mary A. Porter, daughter of John B. Porter, a former resident of Chestnut street, who was also one of the officers of the State Reform school.

Frederick Loomis is a descendant of Joseph Loomis, one of the original settlers of Braintree, Mass., who was born in Essex, England, in 1590, and became one of the proprietors of Windsor, Conn., in 1640. Daniel Loomis, the great, great grandfather of Frederick, showed his patriotism as a Revolutionary soldier by melting the weights of his clock for bullets.

When he was quite young the parents of Frederick Loomis removed with him to Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended school, but he finished his



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.



education at the Meriden High school, his parents having taken up their residence in Yalesville where his father died in 1896 and where his mother still resides with the subject of this sketch.

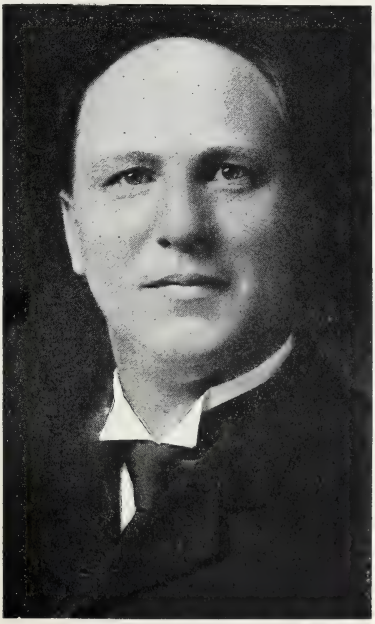
In 1891 he entered the freight office of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad as a clerk and worked up through the various clerical positions until he was entrusted with his present responsibility as station agent to which he was appointed by the company in 1901 and in which capacity he has since served with efficiency to the railroad and satisfaction of the public. Mr. Loomis' responsibility includes the charge of all property of the steam railroad interests within the bounds of Meriden and the general oversight of nearly all the company's vast operations at this point. Under his charge is a force of eighty railroad employes. Since the discontinuance of the Center street station, the entire freight business has been handled at the Main freight station, the sheds of which are 300 feet long, and about 100 freight cars are emptied and filled daily. All of this calls for much executive ability on the part of the present agent who, in dispatching his duties, has ever been accorded the name of serving the public conscientiously and the railroad with equal efficiency.

Mr. Loomis, while not a member of any social organization, is a member of the Yalesville M. E. church where he is organist and musical director, succeeding his father.

He was married May 4, 1896, to Avaline E. Brown, daughter of A. J. Brown, superintendent of the Chas. Parker Company factory at Yalesville and to that union have been born two boys and two girls, as follows: William Erwin, Frederick Brown, Mary Elizabeth and Emily Avaline.

GEO. E. BICKNELL.

George Edward Bicknell, first member of the Connecticut State Sen-



GEORGE E. BICKNELL.

ate from the new thirteenth (Meriden) district, was born in Belfast, Me., November 25, 1861. A son of James M. and Sarah (Stevens) Bicknell, he traces his ancestry in this country back to Zachary Bicknell of

Norman extraction, who settled in Weymouth, Mass., coming from London, in 1635. He obtained his education and remained in his native town until he came to Meriden in 1880, since when he has become active in public affairs and a staunch member of the Republican party and several social and fraternal organizations by which he has been much honored. His public record is as follows: Member Meriden Common Council, 1896-7; one of the police commissioners of Meriden in 1900, 1901 and 1902; four years a member of the state legislature from Meriden from 1901 to 1905; member state Senate 1905 and 1906. He is well versed in matters of finance and since 1903 has served as president of the Meriden Permanent Building and Loan association. Senator Bicknell enjoys the confidence and respect of the community and is prominently identified with the following social and fraternal organizations: Meridian Lodge 77, A. F. & A. M., of which he was master in 1899; Keystone Chapter, R. A. M.; Pacific Lodge 87, I. O. O. F., and noble grand of which in 1893 and 1906; Meriden Camp, 7711, M. W. of A.; Silver City Lodge 3, A. O. U. W. and Colonial club of Meriden.

He was married in 1886 to Eleanor D. Stanley and their children are: Charles, Roscoe and Corinna.

EDGAR J. PERKINS.

Edgar J. Perkins, superintendent of the Charles Parker Company Spoon Shop, was born in Meriden, November 20, 1852, and is the son of James Monroe Perkins, for several years a celebrated engineer on the New York & Erie Railroad, but who spent the last portion of his life in Meriden, where he had become superintendent of the Charles Parker Spoon Shop, formerly conducted by Parker & Perkins, which position he held at the time of

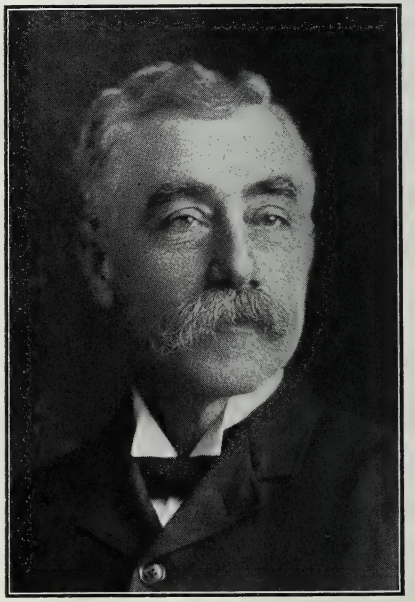
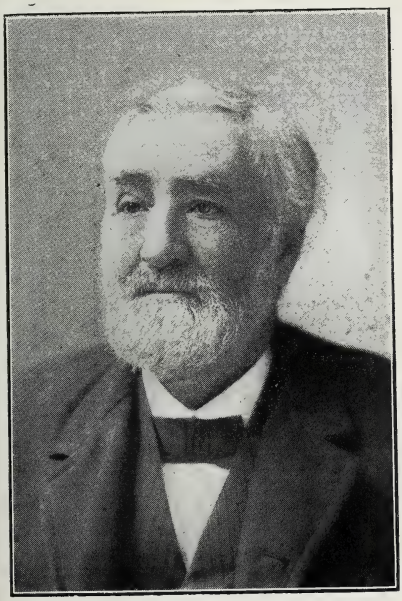


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
EDGAR J. PERKINS.

his death, August 2, 1898. Edgar J. Perkins is the great-grandson of Elisha Perkins, a soldier in the Revolutionary War and one of the heroes of Bunker Hill.

Edgar J. Perkins, who since 1898 has been superintendent of the manufacturing plant where his father, grandfather and uncle were engaged

before him, entered the spoon shop to learn the trade of a tool maker, at the age of eighteen. Previous to this he had been thrown upon his own resources and had a varied experience. After attending school he had worked on neighboring farms and served as a coal passer on the Old Dominion Steamship Line, which plied between New York and Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va. His mechanical ability at the spoon shop was soon demonstrated; for he had ambition and determination to succeed. He finally entered the die-sinking shop in which he continued until he was appointed to the present position which he has since filled. The plant furnishes employment to about 100 hands and under his superintendency has continued to be an important branch of the great industry of Meriden, controlled by the Charles Parker Company. His ability to manage the work and the large number of employes, of whom he has charge, has been significantly demonstrated.



J. M. PERKINS.

He has for many years been an active Republican, has served as grand juror, tax collector and a member of the school board. He is a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M., and is extremely liberal in his religious views.

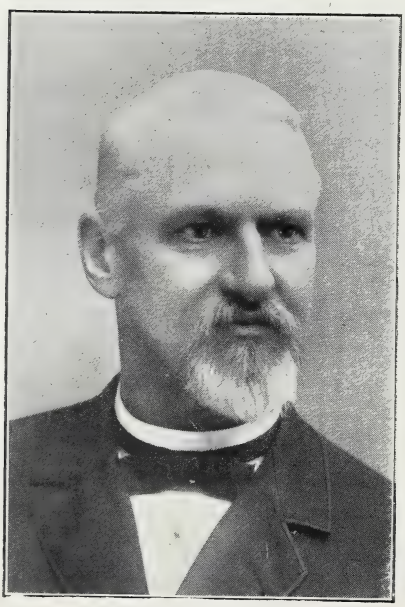
He was married in Meriden to Miss Ellie M. Smith and to them have the following children been born: Belle, Mrs. Leon Brainard, Hartford; Daisy, Mrs. George Farrow, Middletown, and Howard, employed at the Charles Parker Spoon Shop as a tool maker. In 1900 from plans of his own, he had erected for him on Middletown Road, one of the most comfortable and comely residences of the town, where, with his family, he has dispensed genuine hospitality to a large circle of friends.

WALLACE A. MILES.

Wallace A. Miles, deceased, mayor of the city of Meriden in 1889, was a man of the people and was born in Southington in 1841. His parents, Almeron and Caroline (Lawrence) Miles, resided at the place of his birth but temporarily. Removing to Meriden when six months of age, he con-

tinued to live here until the time of his death, December 16, 1904.

He was educated under a private tutor and finished his schooling at the Meriden academy and his first employment was as a clerk in the Meriden post office where he continued under postmasters Yale and Ashahel H. Curtis. After faithful service there he entered the factory of the Charles



WALLACE A. MILES.

Parker Co., where he held the position of shipper, afterwards engaging in the hardware aand crockery business with Eli C. Birdsey under the firm name of Birdsey & Miles. During his connection with the firm they manufactured stationer's hardware. In 1876 the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Miles took the manufacturing business which he continued until 1888 when he gave up his business, having been elected mayor of the city.

Mr. Miles was a man who enjoyed the fullest confidence of his fellow townsmen and was honored at various times by election to public office, the duties of which he dispatched with a conscientious regard for the taxpayers and the citizens. He was collector of taxes in 1875-76-77, and in the last year became one of the board of assessors, serving for a number of years in that capacity. In 1886 he was chosen a member of the board of education and he was from 1875-1877, a period comprising three terms, a representative from Meriden in the state legislature. In politics he was a Democrat and when he was chosen mayor of the city in December, 1888, his administration, conducted in the interest of the people, was highly gratifying to the city.

Mr. Miles was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in the 27th Conn. Vols. in April, 1862, serving until August, 1863. When Merriam Post was formed he was one of the first to become one of its comrades and as such continued until he was called by the Almighty to his reward. Of this post it was his intention to publish a history of its members, but his life was not spared to complete the work he had well in hand, and after his death a large amount of manuscript which he had gathered was turned over to others. His death caused a severe

loss to Meriden and he is survived by a widow, residing on Broad street, in his late residence.

SIDNEY D. TUFTS.

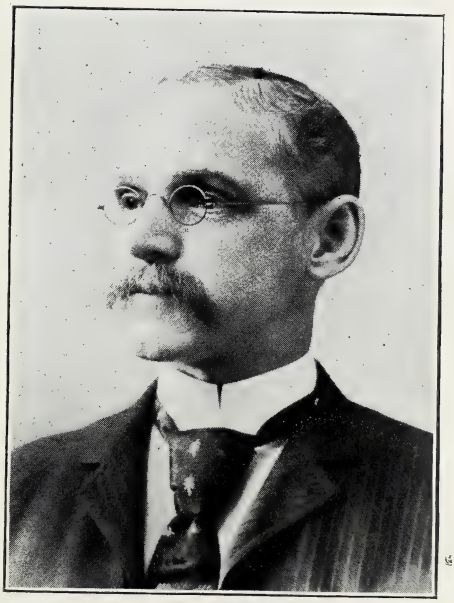
The death of Sidney D. Tufts on November 11, 1891, at the age of 46, marked the passing away of an upright man and public-spirited citizen. For twenty-three years, Mr. Tufts was a contractor at the Wilcox Silver Plate Company (now Factory N, International Silver Company).

Meriden is proud of men who have done their duty as they have seen it, putting forth their best efforts in their daily work, even when that work brought no high rewards. Such a man was Mr. Tufts. He had a wide circle of acquaintances and friends who were attracted to him because of his sterling qualities.

Mr. Tufts was a quiet, domestic man, one who found pleasure in his own cheerful home. He was a firm believer in fraternal life also and was affiliated with many of the orders prominent in the city. He was a leading member of Meriden Center Lodge, I. O. O. F., Columbia Council, O. U. A. M., Electric Lodge, N. E. O. P., and for a time a member of Oasis Encampment. The friendships formed in these organizations were many and congenial and his death caused sorrow that was deep and genuine.

He was held in high regard by the officers of the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. and by the men who worked under him. In his business relations he was strictly honest and just and the many years he held the contract in the rouge buffing department is an indication of the satisfactory quality of his work.

Mr. Tufts' home at 9 Gladwin place was a most hospitable one and there he and Mrs. Tufts were wont to find comfort and contentment. They



SIDNEY D. TUFTS.

were ever ready to receive their friends and the latter were able to gain an insight into what might well be termed a model household. Mr. Tufts' wife survives him. He left no children.

It is such men as Sidney D. Tufts who constitute the backbone of Meriden or any other progressive community. A manufacturing city needs

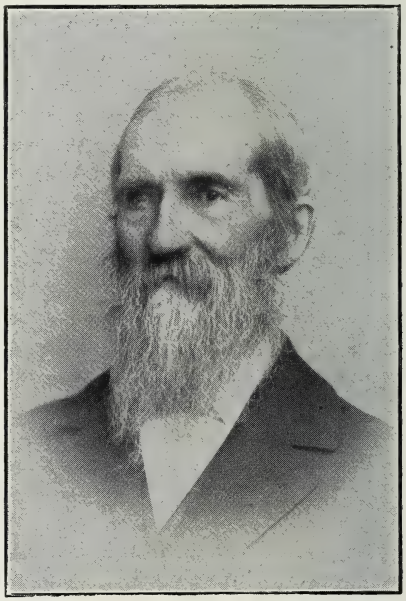
more than "Captains of Industry." It requires that the men at the bench and those set over them shall be faithful in the performance of their duty, that they shall ever be alive to the best interests of the institution for which they labor, that they shall be alert in the endeavor to bring about improvements. Added to this is the broad-minded and intelligent interest in the affairs of the city and country. In the enumeration of these qualities Mr. Tufts' character is described.

W. E. BENHAM.

Welcome E. Benham, founder of the Young Men's Christian Association, of Meriden, the first to construct its own building in New England, and one whose life was devoted to religious labor, was born in Cheshire, September 9, 1820, and died at Meriden August 23, 1898. He was educated in the Cheshire common schools and Southington academy. After his graduation from the latter, he taught district school for three winters, and afterwards concluded his education at the Oberlin, O., Collegiate Institute, where he was a student from 1837-1841, but on account of ill health was compelled to give up his studies.

In 1847, having regained his health, he became a traveling bookseller, covering a territory in central Connecticut, for over a period of thirty years, his sales during that time, a portion of which were Bibles, aggregated $200,000. In 1850 he made a tour abroad, visiting England, Ireland, France and Italy, and in 1854 he married Martha Street, daughter of James Street and Betsey Scott, and settled permanently in Meriden and thereafter devoted much of his useful life to the educational and spiritual welfare and comfort of its people.

From sixteen years of age his life was that of a most devout and exemplary Christian. Through his efforts



W. E. BENHAM.

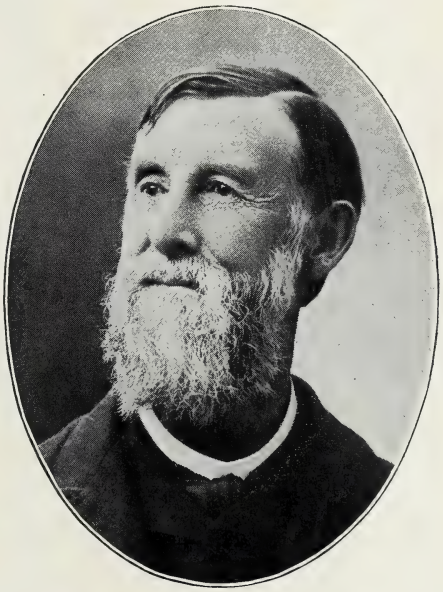
$30,000 were raised to erect the building and equip the library of the above named institution; and for twelve years he was president and for the last fourteen years of his life, was chairman of the board of trustees. He was a member and for thirty years a teacher of an adult class at the First Congregational church. His considera-

tion for his fellowmen was always apparent and it was his delight to perform acts of kindness. He placed a free ice water barrel in front of the Palace block and this he looked after personally for many years, and the drinking fountain at the head of Crown street was dedicated to him.

He served for some years as chairman of the Corner school district committee and officiated as a member of the school board for nine years, two of which he was acting school visitor. During his service he introduced printed school reports and schedules of school terms. His efforts in behalf of free schools enabled Meriden to pass down in history as the first town in this state to adopt them. In 1884 he was chairman of the Winthrop Square Association that established the present green opposite the railroad station which has since added to the beauty of the city. In 1882 he wrote, illustrated and published a book of 240 pages containing sketches of his life and writings; and through his personal effort for church, Y. M. C. A. and other benevolent purposes, he solicited and obtained from the generous public of Meriden over $60,000, without ever desiring or receiving any compensation except the pleasure such commendable work afforded him. His death was a sad loss to Meriden; for his life was largely spent in good works that were always wrought by him purely in the interests of his fellowman. He is survived by a widow and daughter, Mary J. Benham, who reside on Prospect street.

JOSEPH E. COE.

By the death of Joseph E. Coe on May 5, 1902, Meriden lost a most earnest and indefatigable worker in the cause of temperance and Christianity; a man who devoted his life to the betterment of his fellows. He was born on a farm in the town of Middlefield, Connecticut, June 16,



JOSEPH E. COE.

1827, the youngest son of Eli Coe. His early life was spent on the farm, but he desired a wider field for his activities and when he felt sure of his mission he began to devote his energies in behalf of mankind, a service to which practically the remainder of his long life was given. He had wisely invested his early savings and had displayed much business ability. His

investments in Chicago real estate brought to him a comfortable income which, to a large extent, he applied to the carrying out of his plans as a reformer.

Mr. Coe was a strong advocate of temperance and was a consistent enemy of tobacco. He was every ready to denounce the vices he had set out to oppose although often to do so required no small degree of courage.

Mr. Coe was known throughout the country as a distributor of Bible leaves. At great expense to himself he traveled many thousand of miles, covering every state of the Union, in order to distribute these tracts, one leaf at a time. This required about 2,000 copies of the revised and 4,000 copies of the King James version of the New Testament.

Mr. Coe was always interested in education and gave freely of his money in behalf of schools. He was prominent in Y. M. C. A. work and was an active member of the American Bible Society of New York City. He was a promoter of the Meriden hospital and was much interested in its work. He provided commodious quarters in the Middlefield town hall for the W. C. T. U. in whose work he also took a deep interest. In the work he had made peculiarly his own he employed others, paying them out of his own means. In all these causes there are few men who have proved themselves so devoted as Mr. Coe, whose time and thought, whose energy and money were given without the slightest expectation of personal gain.

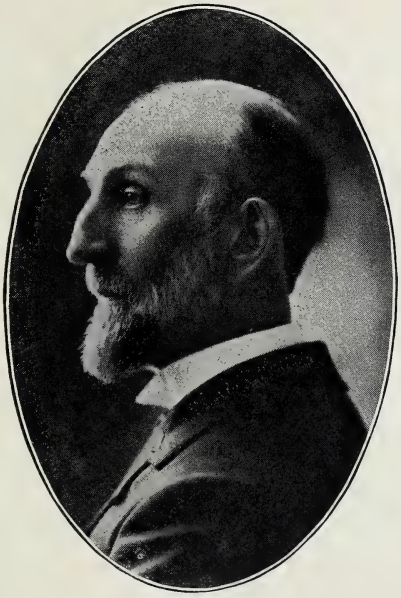
Mr. Coe's first marriage was to Laura L. Miller. His second wife, who survives him, is Orpha R. Root, who, during his life, proved a faithful wife and gave him moral support and encouragement in his efforts for others.

F. J. WHEELER.

Frederick J. Wheeler, a striking example of the self-made man, who has accumulated a competency in the business life of Meriden, was born in Stratford, Conn., and is a son of Everett Wheeler, a farmer of that town, where his ancestors resided for many generations before him. He is also descended from Moses Wheeler, who lived in London, England, during the existence of the plague which caused many to flee to this country over two centuries ago. Moses Wheeler was one who was stricken and supposing he was about to die, dug his own grave and lay down in it. His neighbors believing him to be dead, he came near being buried alive, but recovered and was one of the early settlers of Stratford, becoming the operator of the ferry which in olden times plied between Stratford and Milford.

Frederick J. Wheeler of whom this article now speaks more especially, was educated in the district schools of his native town and worked on his father's farm until sixteen years of age, when he journeyed to Seymour, Conn., and learned the trade of a tinsmith, serving his full apprenticeship

there and afterwards working as a journeyman for seven years at Waterbury. From the fruits of his labor, he was enabled to engage in business in 1862, and happily for him, he chose Meriden for the field of his business life. He leased a portion of his present store, one of the most historic buildings of the town, and from a small beginning has increased his business to large proportions. Beginning business as a tinsmith, he later added plumbing, heating and ventilating, increasing his employes and business steadily and profitably. His original stock consisted of stoves and tinware but gradually other lines have been added until at the present writing the store, which has been several times enlarged, contains an endless variety of general hardware, cutlery, tools, stoves, crockery, wooden, tin and willow ware. For many years Mr. Wheeler has conducted a large plumbing, gasfitting, heating and ventilating business, employing a number of workmen to whom he gives steady employment. From a long and honorable business career, Mr. Wheeler has become one of the most responsible business men of the town.



F. J. WHEELER.

GEORGE A. CHURCH.

George A. Church, one of Meriden's ablest merchants and respected citizens, and from 1878 until the time of his death, senior member of the firm of Church & Morse, and for some years previous to that engaged in the hardware business in Meriden, was born in Hartford, May 11, 1847. He was the son of Abner and Lucy Church and was educated in the public schools of Hartford and Cheshire Academy. After the war broke out, although a mere boy he enlisted in the Union army as a private and saw active service as a member of the 64th Ill. Vols. Infantry.

He came to Meriden in 1872, after having received a business education from his previous experience, and engaged in the hardware business as a member of the firm of Church & Sprague, in a store on East Main street in the vicinity of the depot crossing. The business rapidly outgrew the first location and was later removed to West Main, directly opposite



GEORGE A. CHURCH.

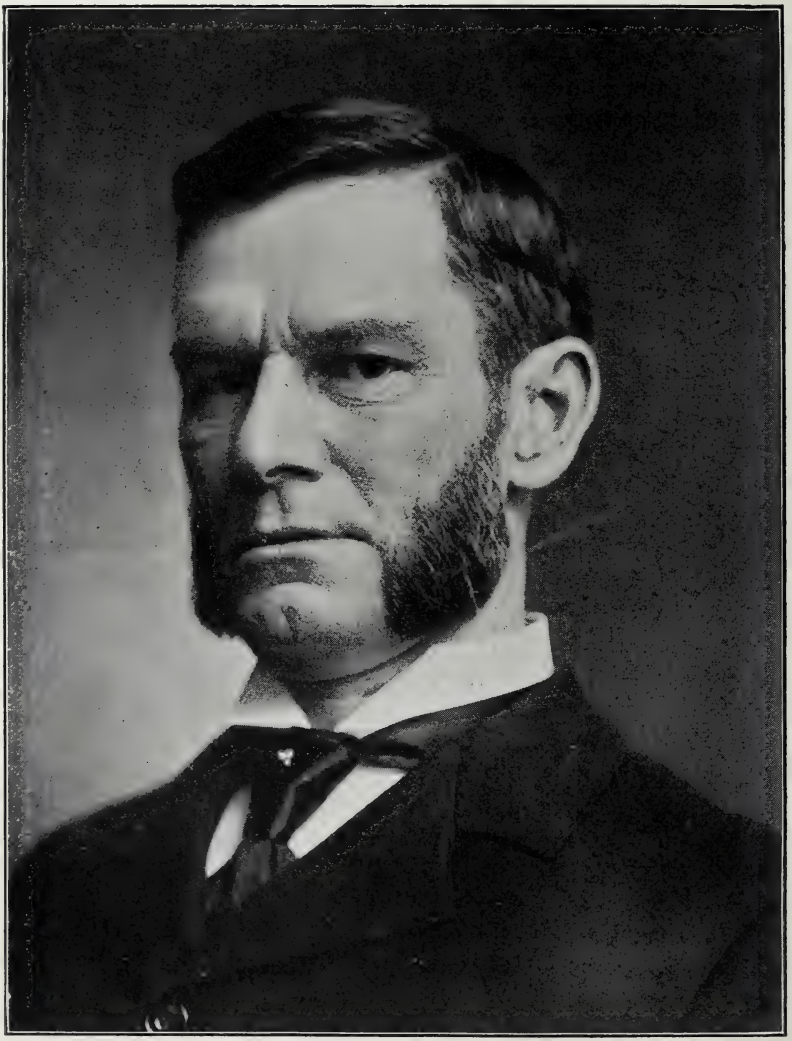
Colony street. In 1878 Mr. Church bought the interest of Mr. Sprague and continued the growing business for one year; but at the end of that time, Charles P. Morse bought a half interest and the business has ever since been conducted under the firm name of Church & Morse. Since the death of his father, Robert G. Church has represented the interests of the estate and taken his place in the store. The growth of the business of Church & Morse to that of the largest in the hardware line in Meriden, is in no small degree due to the somewhat remarkable business acumen of the late George A. Church. He was known as one of Meriden's most progressive merchants and his popularity, both in and out of his store, will be long remembered by the people of Meriden and vicinity.

Mr. Church was a familiar figure in social life as well as a business man standing high in the community; he was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he filled a large place in the hearts of his brethren. He was eminently devoted to that craft and his energy was exerted to the best results. Among his prominent characteristics were his scrupulous honesty, faithfulness to trusts, whether in private or official relations, and fidelity to principles which he might espouse without regard to either popular clamor or favor. Mr. Church was also a member of the Red Men and his connection with that order will cause him to be long remembered by his fellow braves. He was also a member of the Home Club and his good fellowship there made his loss greatly deplored by its members. For many years before his death he was also a member of Merriam Post, G. A. R. His death, September 13, 1896, came without warning and caused great surprise and pain in the community, with which he had become so thoroughly a part.

He was married in Middletown, Conn., 1875, to Lucy R. Goodell, to whom three sons have been born: Robert G., Howard W. and William B. Church, who with Mrs. Church, survive him and still reside in the same residence, 93 Crown street.

WILLIAM F. ROCKWELL.

William Francis Rockwell was born in Ridgefield, Conn., January 12, 1845, and died at his home in Meriden, Conn., January 5, 1901. His early education was acquired at a private school. He afterwards graduated from Fort Edward Collegiate Institute. His business career began in the forwarding and commission house of Miller Bros., in New York, when about eighteen years of age. He held an important position with that concern for several years, being stationed at Norfolk, Va., as supercargo of a vessel during the war. In 1868 he went to Washington, N. J., and engaged in mercantile business under the firm name of Cummins, Rockwell & Co. In 1874 Mr. Rockwell returned to Connecticut and became treasurer of the United States Steel



H. S. Rockwell

Shear Company. In 1876 he participated in the reorganization of the Miller Bros. Cutlery Company. That concern had failed for a large amount and Mr. Rockwell, in connection with four other gentlemen, bought out the plant and reorganized the company. Mr. Rockwell became treasurer and general manager, and the late Lemuel J. Curtis was the first president. At the death of Mr. Curtis, I. C. Lewis became president, and in 1893, when Mr. Lewis died, Mr. Rockwell was elected president and held the office until the time of his decease. In 1877 Mr. Rockwell was one of the organizers and first president of the American Pocket Cutlery Association of the United States, organized to look after the protective interests of the cutlery trade. He was also a member of the committee on the revision of customs laws of the Merchants' Association of New York. While that organization is composed largely of importers and merchants, they recognized Mr. Rockwell's knowledge and experience and were glad to avail themselves of it.

The following tribute to Mr. Rockwell's character and position in the cutlery trade is from William H. Maher, of Toledo, Ohio, who knew him long and intimately:

"For twenty-five years Mr. Rockwell had been one of the controlling forces in the hardware trade of this country, and has left his impress upon the tariff laws and rulings to an extent that very few realize. He was a manufacturer, but he was something more than that; in a broad sense he was a statesman, and though he held no office his was the mind and brains and research and perseverance that furnished facts, figures and arguments to the men who made laws. He worked through them, meeting every point raised by the opposition, until to-day the American consumer who wishes American goods cannot be fooled by having foreign stuff forced on him under an American name.

"His battle for American cutlery was something grand and Titanic. Mr. Rockwell began his battle as a lawyer prepares his case when immense issues are at stake. His fight was made on facts, facts, facts! Every point was fortified with figures that could not be questioned. In that contest the American cutler triumphed, and if he wished to know who was his friend he need but listen to the maledictions heaped upon Mr. Rockwell's head by the importers, whose false brands and under valuation had been summarily interfered with. And when Congress had done its work Mr. Rockwell's task was seemingly but just begun. The men in the New York custom house had his knowledge at their command, and his quick eye caught at every loophole through which the spirit of the law might have been rendered abortive.

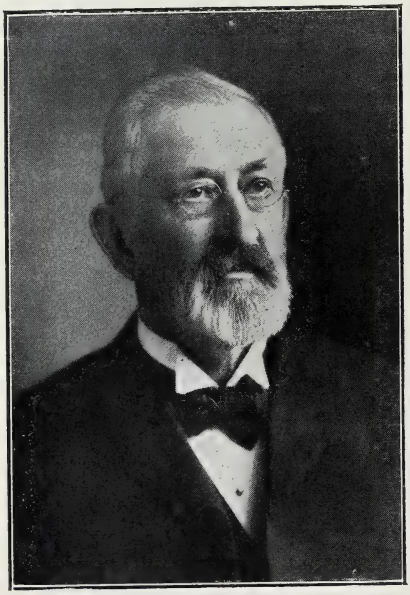
"Of all my acquaintances I know of none who has shown more resourceful energy, more knowledge of everything connected with his business, or who has left one tithe of his impress upon his associates. In his own office and in his home he was a most genial

host. In his city and state he was one of the controlling minds, and in national affairs he was a power."

Mr. Rockwell was married in 1876 to Miss Louise Taylor, of Washington, N. J. To them was born one son, Charles Francis Rockwell.

GEORGE COOLEY.

George Cooley, one of the substantial residents of the town of Meriden



GEORGE COOLEY.

and the veteran liveryman engaged in business at the present writing, was born in Ashford, Windham county, Conn., June 23, 1835. He is the son of Rowe and Mira (Snow) Cooley and his father was a well-to-do farmer of that town which is now Eastford. He was educated in the district school and brought up to work on the home farm until sixteen years of age, when he went to Hartford and learned the trade of a burnisher, first entering the factory of William & Asa Rogers and later being employed by J. H. Martin.

He came to Meriden soon after and secured employment as a burnisher at the works of the Meriden Britannia Co. and for some years was employed by that company in Wallingford; and during this time Samuel Simpson was a member of the concern. In 1864, while still employed by the Meriden Britannia Co., he started in the livery stable business on Broad street, by buying out William Fisher, where he soon recovered his previous failing health, and since that time he has been engaged in the livery business continuously. He remained on Broad street for a period of sixteen years, but before he sold out the Broad street stables to Mr. Smith, of Middletown, he had for four years at the same time been conducting also the stables of Willliam Parker on Main street. The latter stables he carried on successfully in all for twenty-one years, but May, 1901, he sold out the Parker stable and from J. H. McDonald, purchased the Meriden House stables, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Cooley is a Republican in politics and a member of the Home Club He is married to Emily J., daughter of Leander Parmelee, of Wallingford, once high sheriff of New Haven county, and by that marriage are two grown children: Irving G., the manager of the Meriden Curtain Fixture Co., and Jennie, wife of C. S. Howard.

FRANCIS STANLEY FOSTER.

Francis Stanley Foster, deceased, a lifelong resident of Meriden, active and popular in business life, a member of the firm of Birdsey & Foster, now Birdsey & Raven, was born in this town April 25, 1840. He was the son of Ira and Harriet F. (Kelsey) Foster. He was a grandson of Mathew and Charlotte (Preston) Foster and their family name is one of the oldest and most familiar in this section. His maternal grandmother was Lucy, daughter of Lot and Rhoda (Wadsworth) Stanley, of New Britain, who was descended from one of the best known families of Hartford.

Francis Stanley Foster attended the Corner school. When he was quite young his father removed from what was known as Crow Hollow and built a house on the corner of Main and Butler streets, the land at that time being worth less than $300, but now valued at about $20,000. At sixteen years of age he entered the grocery story of H. D. Bassett on Broad street. Later he was employed as clerk by Jared Lewis, whose employ he left to fill the position of head clerk in the dry goods store of David S. Williams. He was a natural salesman and developed into a successful merchant. He became the partner of Eli C. Birdsey in May, 1876, which partnership was continued under the name of Birdsey & Foster until his lamented death in 1899.

He was possessed of an especially happy disposition and his good fellowship was as fully apparent in his store as elsewhere. He was known as very genial, strictly honest, and one who treated all with due consideration. He was known as a good Mason and a loyal Odd Fellow and was a member of the Center lodges of both orders and also was a valued member of Keystone Chapter, Hamilton Council and St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar.

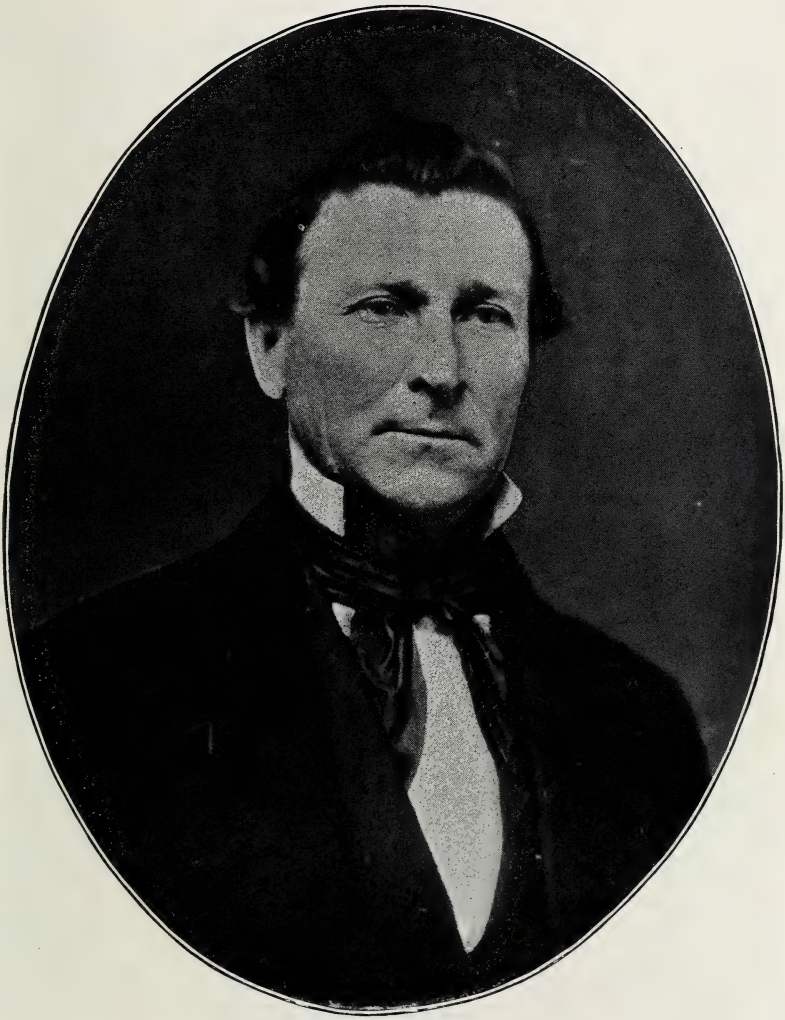
He was married October 22, 1863, to Mary J., daughter of Alanson and Clarissa (Wilcox) Birdsey. He died November 12, 1899. His wife, mother and a sister, Mrs. Martha Hillard, survived him.

Alanson Birdsey, the father of Mrs. Foster, was the son of Gershom and Lucy Coe Birdsey and was born in the present town of Middlefield in 1807. He was a brother of Eli C. Birdsey, known as Squire Birdsey, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. The family moved to East Meriden and after spending his younger days on the home farm he finally engaged in the grocery business on Broad street and carried on that trade for many years.

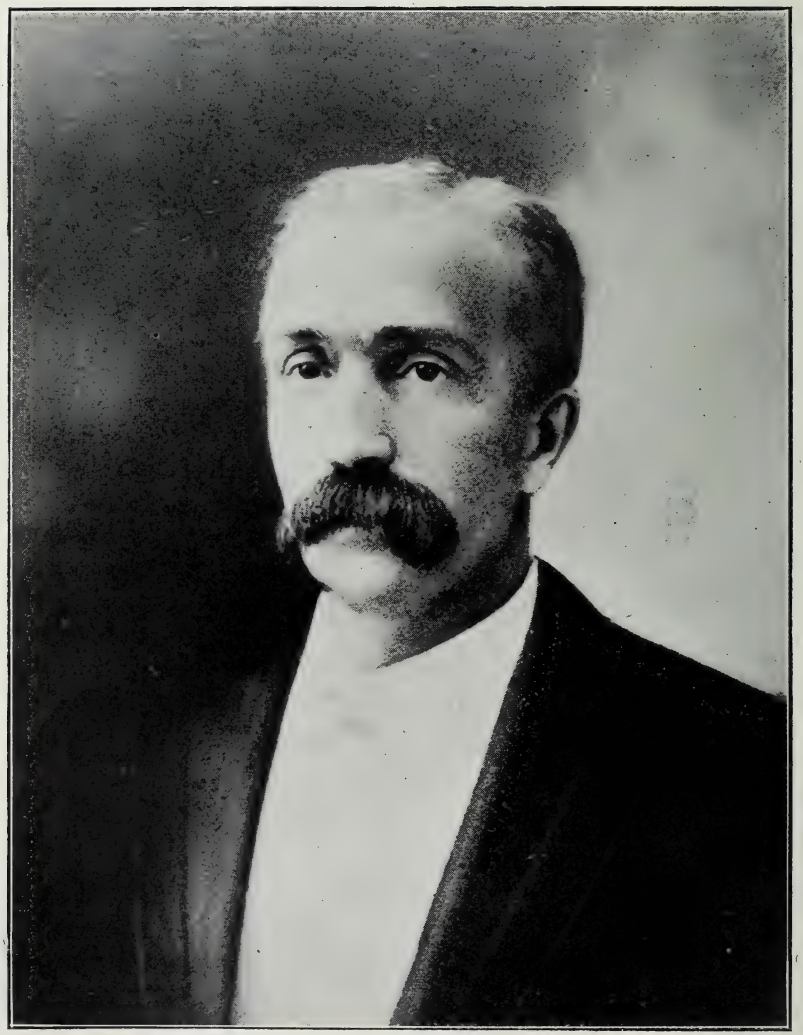
In 1844 he built what was then known as a most imposing brick mansion on Broad street, where he resided until his death which occurred June 14, 1881, when Francis S. Foster and his wife became the occupants and since the death of her husband it has continued to be occupied by Mrs. Foster.



FRANCIS S. FOSTER.



ALANSON BIRDSEY.



WILLIAM GARLICK.

WILLIAM GARLICK.

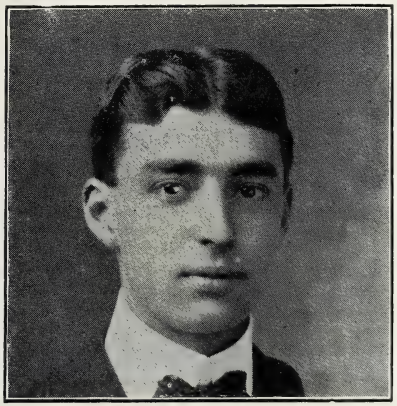
William Garlick, whose death occurred October 10, 1904, at his home in South Meriden, was born in Sheffield, England, August 19, 1847. His parents moved to this country when he was but three years of age; and he was reared in South Meriden. For many years he was engaged in the ice business and he was also a contractor at the Meriden Cutlery Company's factory and president of the Colorado and Connecticut Gold Mining Company.

Mr. Garlick was educated in the South Meriden district school. At the age of fifteen he entered the employ of the Meriden Cutlery Company in the same department in which his father was engaged, continuing there until he reached his majority. For three years thereafter he was employed as inspector at the Aetna Cutlery Works at New Britain. He then returned to take the etching contract at the Meriden factory, that connection continuing for nearly thirty years.

Mr. Garlick had purchased his father's ice business in 1878 and in 1889 he consolidated it with the Meriden Ice Company. He was elected president and served for five years. In 1894 he withdrew from this connection and started the Beaver Lake Ice Company, Mr. Garlick being the sole owner.

In 1898 Mr. Garlick made a trip to Alaska prospecting for gold in the Klondike. He was gone eighteen months, during which the ice business was successfully carried on by his wife and daughter. Returning home he formed the Colorado and Connecticut Gold Mining Company and was chosen president. Mr. Garlick was a member of Hancock Lodge, No. 28, I. O. O. F., of South Meriden, Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum, and the Home Club, of Meriden. He was a member of the Methodist church.

After Mr. Garlick's death his wife and daughter again assumed the management of the ice business, which they carried on in a successful manner for several months until disposing of same to parties who now carry on the business under the same name—The Beaver Lake Ice Company.



ARTHUR S. GARLICK.

Mr. Garlick was held in high regard both as a citizen and business man. He was upright in his deal-

ings with his fellows and progressive in his ideas. He took great pride in municipal affairs and was ready to aid in anything that promised to advance the welfare of city or town. He was respected and liked by his employes in whom he always took a kindly interest.

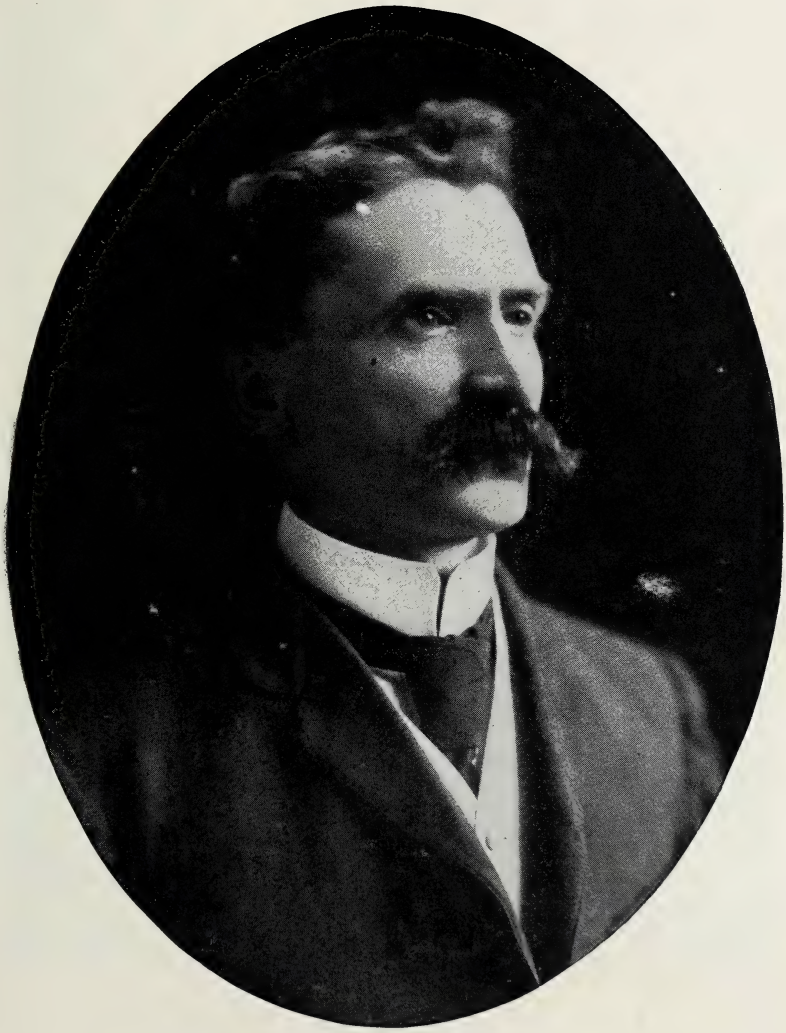
Mr. Garlick was married on November 11, 1875, to Nellie May Stevens, daughter of Philander and Eunice Stevens, of South Meriden. Two children were born, Miss Mabel Stevens Garlick, prominent in Meriden society, and Arthur Stanley Garlick, who is an instructor in Cincinnati University. Young Mr. Garlick has a bright future. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, F. & A. M., of Meriden, and is well known and liked in social circles. His advance in his chosen profession is certain, and the position he now holds in Cincinnati University is most promising.

PAUL T. SALESKI.

Paul T. Saleski, president and treasurer of the wholesale grocery, fruit and produce dealing corporation which bears his name, and one of the most energetic and successful business men of the vicinity of Meriden, was born in Germany, September 2, 1866. His father, Charles Wilhelm Saleski, was a well known manufacturer of pottery and earthenware, who married Mary Lietz. Their children, fourteen in number, nine of whom are now living, are as follows: Gustav W., Charles M., a carpenter and joiner; Frank, August B., Anton A., of the Wilcox & White Co.; Cecilia I., widow of Samuel H. W. Yale; Anna A., wife of John Velz, and Ida M., wife of Joseph Dumackowski, all of whom came to Meriden with their parents in 1878, where they have resided ever since, excepting Frank, a prominent dairy farmer of Wallingford.

The subject of this sketch, who was eleven years old when the family came to Meriden, having previously attended school in his native land, was further educated in St. Rose's parochial school of Meriden. He began his business life as a clerk in the grocery store of Martin Booth where he began at a salary of seventy-five cents a day and remained until he had learned the business, to which he readily adapted himself.

He began business for himself in 1890 in a somewhat small way in partnership with J. I. Parker under the firm name of J. I. Parker & Co. In 1892 he bought his partner's interest and the growing and successful business was continued under the name of P. T. Saleski & Co. He afterwards took an extensive trip to Europe and the old world and upon his return again formed a partnership with Mr. Parker whose interest he again bought out in 1895, when he became an importer of foreign fruits as well as an extensive dealer in domestic fruits, vegetables and country produce, having since been the only importer of fruits between Hartford and New Haven. The growth of the bus-



Paul T. Saleski



THE P. T. SALESKI BUILDING.

iness, of which he has for many years been the head, has been remarkably steady and rapid. As early as 1901, the enterprise first began to show the evidence of success and was removed to South Colony street and later the adjoining store was added and improvements costing $4,000 were made which included cold storage accommodations and every facility for keeping fresh the goods sold to the trade.

In 1905 a large four story brick structure was erected on the opposite side of the street at a cost of $25,000. This is one of the most substantial buildings in Meriden and admirably adapted for the large business carried on by the P. T. Saleski Co., a corporation which was chartered by the legislature, of which Mr. Saleski owns ninety per cent. of the stock, the balance being owned by trusted employes. In the basement of this building are the cold storage and steam heating plants. The first floor, where the handsomely fitted offices are, is devoted to fruits and produce, the second to groceries and the third to woodenware. The building is of buff brick with granite trimmings and is most conveniently arranged for the business now carried on there so extensively. The business of the company of which Mr. Saleski is the head, adds much to the mercantile life of Meriden and several traveling men are now employed to wait upon the trade in adjoining towns. The success of Mr. Saleski from a poor boy, has been the result of untiring energy, honest dealings with the trade and his ability to rise to the occasion. He has the respect of the community and stands high in business circles.

He was married September 28, 1897, to Anne Reichardt, of Buffalo, N. Y., a lady of culture, who has since made him an excellent helpmate. To this union these children have been born, Henrietta, Eugene and Philip, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Saleski was for many years a member of the Knights of Columbus, and a past grand knight of that organization, and also of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and St. Boniface society and others, but retired from them all in order to devote his time to his business and home. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the building committee of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church. He is also a man who has never meddled with politics and is deeply devoted to his business, his family and his home. He resides in his own house on Liberty street.

C. A. GRAEBER.

Rev. Charles Augustus Graeber, born in St. Louis, Mo., June 27, 1841, son of Carl August Graeber and Carolina Reissner, entered the parochial school of the Trinity Lutheran church when five years of age, then the Concordia College of the Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states April 4, 1853. On account of ill health he took up the practical side of the apothecary's trade with Dr.

Tschirpe. In 1858 he re-entered the college and graduated in April, 1861. He clerked with Druggist Buenger for six months and then entered the theological seminary of Concordia in St. Louis. He graduated on March 11, 1864, was ordained March 20, and accepted the missionary board's call to go to southeast Missouri, locating at Pilotknob, Iron Co., Mo., preach-



DR. CHARLES A. GRAEBER.

ing and teaching there and at Farmington, Sainte Genevieve, Mine Lamotte, and other places. His voice failing, he accepted a call to Rockville, Tolland Co., Conn., being installed there December 16, 1866, supplying also at Broad Brook. August 1 1869, he accepted a call to the St. John's Lutheran church of Meriden and was installed August 22 by the Rev. F. W. Fochlinger, of New York city. He supplied Southington's St. Matthew society and New Britain mission, starting also a mission at New Haven, Conn. He accepted a call to the Wartburg Home and Lutheran hospital in East New York in April, 1886. He resigned in April, 1888, and returned to Meriden, devoting himself to the practice of medicine.

He was married Aug. 7, 1864, to Miss Christina Elizabeth Haeppler, of St. Louis, Mo. This union was blessed with six sons and five daughters. His wife dying in January, 1902, he married July 4, 1904, Mrs. Crescentia Wilhelm, of Durham,. Conn. He has several children in Meriden now grown to maturity.

ALBERT A. MAY.

Albert A. May is one of Meriden's leading business men and has been a resident of this city for the past ten years. He was born in Northfield, Vt., on March 17, 1844, and was the eldest son of Hustin and Nufflet (Dupheney) May. He spent his early years and was educated in the town of Ludlow, Vt., graduating from the Black River academy in 1860.

Always intensely patriotic, he responded to the first call for troops at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisting as a private April 20, 1861, as a member of Co. I, Second Vermont Vol. Infantry. He saw much active service, participating in twenty-seven

battles. He was wounded six times, and suffers to this day from the effects of a badly shattered leg received in the Battle of the Wilderness, May 4, 1864. He was honorably discharged July 15, 1865, ranking as second lieutenant.

After the close of the war and his recovery, to some extent, from his injuries, he established himself in business in Massachusetts, where he resided until the spring of 1896, when he came to Meriden and founded the Pequod Business College, which is today one of the valued educational institutions of the city. For several years he has been engaged in the undertaking business in which he has met with marked success.

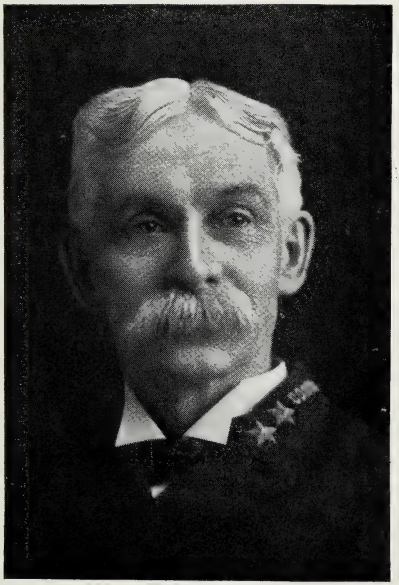


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

ALBERT A. MAY.

Mr. May is a past post commander of Merriam Post, G. A. R., and a past master in the Masonic fraternity. He has also been at the head of many other patriotic, fraternal and social organizations. In June, 1905, he was chosen department commander of the G. A. R. of the state of Connecticut, and served his term in that office most acceptably to the comrades in the state. He is also an earnest church and Sunday school worker.

HUBERT LITTLE.

One of the best known merchants in Meriden is Hubert Little, a member of the corporation of The Little, Somers & Hyatt., and for over thirty years has been a valued resident of the town. He comes of distinguished ancestry on both sides, and is of the eighth generation in descent from Thomas Little, who came to Plymouth, Mass., from Devonshire, England, in 1630, and, in 1633 married Ann Warren, daughter of Richard Warren, who came over in the Mayflower, and was followed in 1623 by his wife and five children, who crossed the Atlantic in the good ship "Fortune." He is also descended, through the line of Warrens, from one of the oldest families in England, and his descent may be traced directly to William de Warren, Earl of Normandy, who died in 1088, and married Gundred, youngest daughter of William the Conqueror.

Hubert Little is the son of William Buckingham and Harriet N. (Palmer)

Little, and was born at Columbia, Conn., November 14, 1843, where his father was also born and was one of the more prominent men of that town. Hubert Little was brought up on his father's farm, and after attending the district school, finished his education at the Willimantic High school. He afterwards assisted in the work on the home farm.

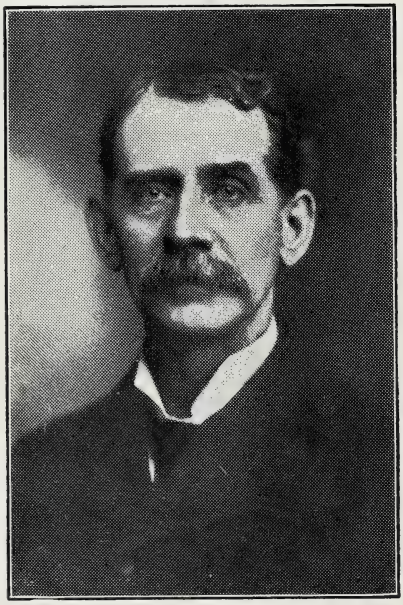


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
HUBERT LITTLE.

He came to Meriden to learn the trade of a painter under his cousin, Charles L. Little, but finally formed a partnership with his brother, Elbert C. Little, and buying out his cousin, established himself in the paint, wall-paper and interior decorating business, under the firm style of H. Little & Co. After several years of successful business, John E. Somers bought out the interest of the junior partner. The firm of which he has always been a member became Little, Somers & Hyatt in 1886, when Isaac B. Hyatt, the present chief of the Meriden Fire Department, bought an interest in the business, and which in 1904 became incorporated with a capital of $20,000. The concern of which Mr. Little is the head, is now one of the leading business houses of Meriden, and he is known as one of the most reliable in local circles.

He has for many years resided in one of the most comely residences in that part of the town known as Washington Heights. Mr. Little is a member of several fraternal organizations, including Pacific Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum.

He is a Republican in politics, but has never aspired to public office.

He was married November 14, 1871, to Alice L., daughter of Egbert Brown, of Columbia, Conn.; she died May 20, 1877, and to her three children were born: Flora L., November 18, 1872, died January 14, 1875; Clayton E., born December 19, 1874, died March 27, 1875; and Clinton E., born May 8, 1877, a successful traveling salesman. Mr. Little has been again married to Martha L., daughter of William Williams, of Westfield, Conn., and they had these children: Edna M., born January 28, 1879, died April 9, 1883; Thomas Saxton, born November 27, 1882, died May 12, 1883; Harold Saxton, born July 7, 1884, and

Burton Elbert, born May 4, 1890, died October 31, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Little are both influential members of the Trinity M. E. church in Meriden.

JULIUS HOBART YALE.

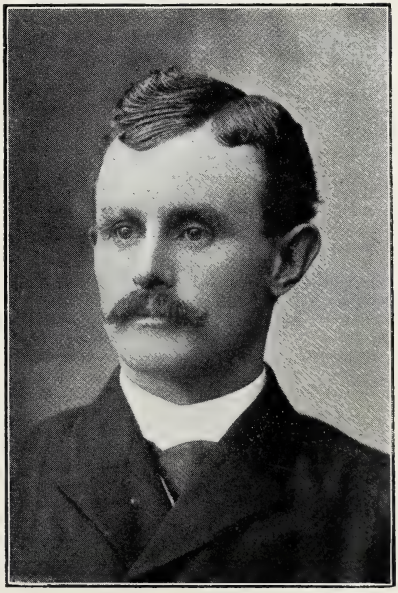
Julius Hobart Yale, a prominent agriculturist of Meriden, who resides in the house built by his ancestor, Noah Yale, in 1761, was born in the house next to his present residence, July 3, 1863. He is a son of Julius Wilcox and Mary (Cooley) Yale and a descendant in the fifth generation from Noah Yale.

He was educated in the public schools and since then he has conducted his present well cultivated farm of 115 acres which has been in the possession of his family for so many generations.

His residence, although one of the oldest houses in Meriden, has been fitted by him with all modern improvements. The water is supplied from an artesian well built in 1905 and operated by a windmill. The situation of his residence is most picturesque and delightful views are furnished from the windows. His fruit cellar, for he raises a large amount, is kept well ventilated by a system of his own invention which keeps his apple and vegetable bins at the proper temperature. His barns contain all modern farming implements and the farm shows the result of careful cultivation. He is the possessor of a large herd of cattle and is also a dairyman of note.

Mr. Yale has contributed much to the press and was for three years a correspondent for the Connecticut Farmer and a like term for the New England Homestead. He has also taken a prominent part in the town meetings of Meriden, and is known as a good speaker, well versed in the topics of the day.

Since 1885 he has been actively connected with the Grange and in that



JULIUS HOBART YALE.

year was one of a committee of five to secure the charter members for the organization of the Meriden Grange, in which he has served as chorister for eleven years and two years each as lecturer, overseer and master. He has for many years also been a member of the Center Congregational church, which society he has served in various capacities.

He was married February 7, 1889, to Emma Louise Norton, of Guilford, Connecticut, a daughter of Geo. B. and Maria (Chalker) Norton, who before her marriage was for nine years a teacher in the schools of Guilford. Five children have been born to this marriage, three of whom are now living.

SERENO D. SMITH.

The subject of this sketch was born in Cheshire in the Cheshire Street district, receiving his education there and at the Lewis Academy, Southington. He engaged with his father, Loyal Smith, in the carpenter and joiner business until 1858, when, upon advice of Horace Greeley to young men to "go west," he went to Illinois and with a partner engaged in house building near the city of Ottawa. There he heard one of the great debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. After his return he was employed by Deacon Lyman Clark at whose sash and blind factory he made blinds by contract. This factory, located where the Armour building now stands on South Colony street, was burned in the spring of 1865. That year he formed a partnership with C. L. Little in the manufacture of sash doors, and blinds, which was continued for about a year, when they sold out to Pinney & Clark. In 1876 Mr. Smith opened a store at 167 State street, for the sale of windows, doors, blinds, paints, oils, etc., which he continued until April, 1901, with fairly good success, disposing of his stock at that time to the Meriden Lumber Co., and since which he has not been engaged in active business.

Although not a member of any church organization he has for many years taken quite an interest in the Main Street Baptist church, contributing according to his means to the construction of the edifice and its maintenance.

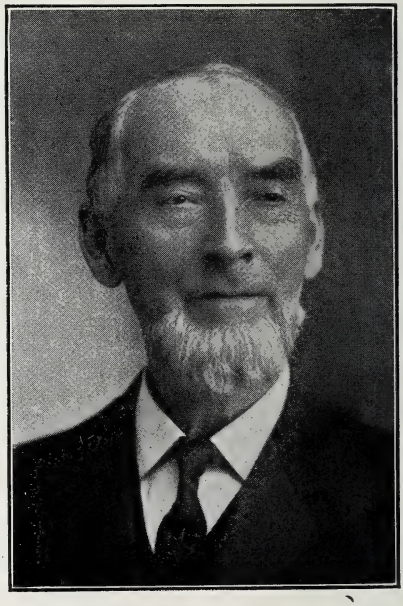


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
SERENO D. SMITH.

On January 1, 1863, he was married to Fannie E., daughter of the late J. C. Beach, of South Colony street. She died in November the same year; and in November, 1866, he was again married to Anna

M. Hanly, who died March 12, 1905.

In politics Mr. Smith may be classed as an independent, believing it his duty to support the best man for office without regard to party. He voted for Grover Cleveland three different times; in 1896 and 1900 as a gold Democrat supported William McKinley. Mr. Smith, at this writing, is a great admirer of Theodore Roosevelt. He now lives in retirement at his home, 1 Olive street, Meriden.

GEORGE M. CLARK.

George M. Clark, president of the Meriden National Bank and since 1865 an active resident of Meriden, was born at Willimantic, Conn., October 5, 1844. His ancestors include men of standing and influence in the early history of this country and he is descended from Lieut. William Clark, one of the first settlers of Dorchester, Mass., and who came to this country from England in 1636, but in 1639, removed to Northampton, Mass. He served as a soldier in the King Philip's War and for fourteen years was a representative from Northampton in the general court. George M. Clark's forefathers afterwards became prominent in Connecticut, and as far back as 1784, Jonathan Clark, son of David, was born in Tolland where he grew to manhood and became a land owner and a prosperous farmer. Silas Fuller Clark, son of Jonathan and the father of the subject of this sketch, was also a native of Tolland, but spent the last five years of his life in Meriden, where he died in August, 1900, and was buried in the Willimantic cemetery. He married at Willimantic, Elizabeth L. Woodworth, a daughter of Asa Woodworth, of Hebron, Conn.

George M. Clark was the only child of his parents to grow to manhood, his twin brother having died in childhood. He was educated in the public schools and also private schools of Willimantic where he prepared for college, but his close application to studies caused his health to break down and he had to give up the college life which he had looked forward to with much pleasure and ambition.

He, therefore, began his business life at the age of sixteen, as a clerk in the Willimantic post office, but a year later entered the bank at Windham, as teller, ever since which time he has been continuously associated with the banking business. In 1865 he was invited by the late O. B. Arnold, then its cashier, to enter the Meriden National Bank and become its teller, which position he filled with faithful attention to his duties until 1891, when he was elected cashier. This office he held until the death of Mr. Levi E. Coe, president, when he was chosen president and since that date has been at the head of the institution. Mr. Clark, from his long connection with banking, is properly regarded as one whose conservative ideas and sound judgment have always held the confidence of his directors and the public in general.

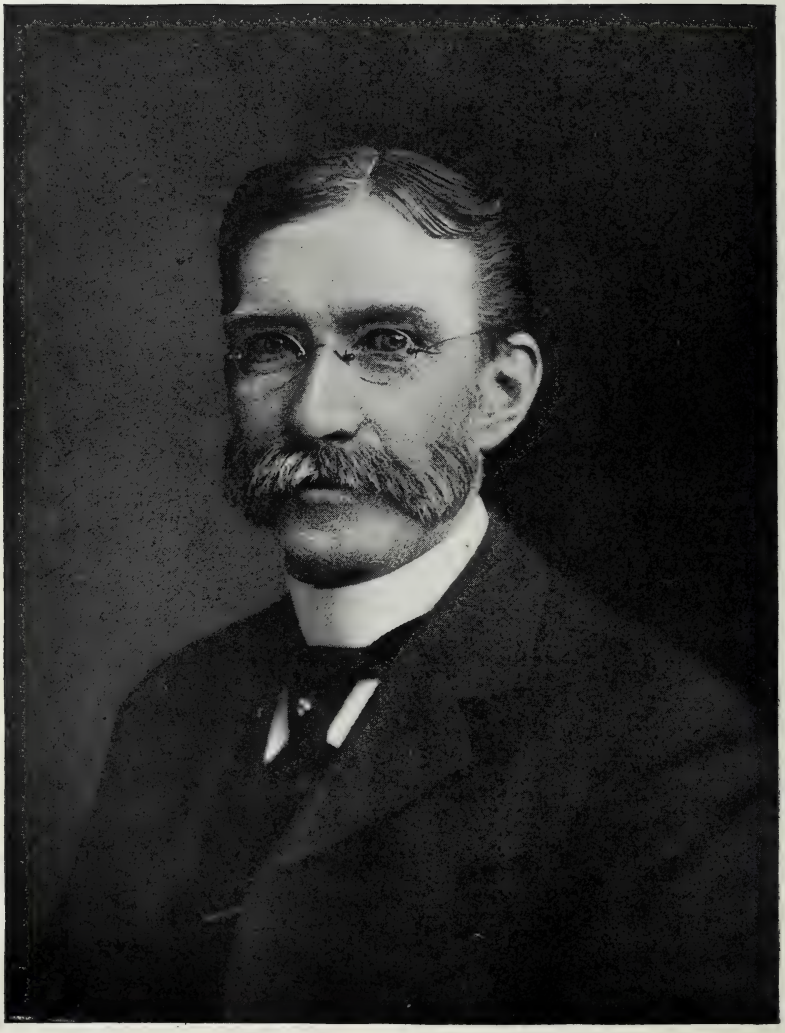


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.



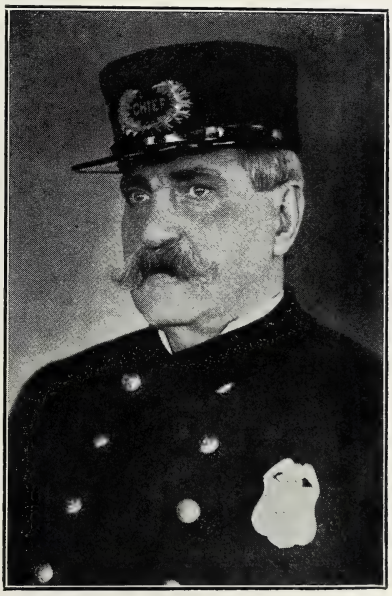
Since becoming a resident of Meriden, he has entered heart and soul into all matters where the welfare and good name of the town were at stake and is particularly active in church circles. He has for many years been a prominent member and one of the trustees of the First Methodist church of Meriden, in the affairs of which he has been a valued participant.

He was married in Mansfield to Lovisa Maria, daughter of Perry and Lois (Fenton) Holly, and two children have been born to them as follows: George S. Clark, teller of the Meriden National Bank, who married Carrie Capen, of Norwich, Conn., and who have one child, Rolland B. Clark; and Elizabeth Louise, assistant librarian at the Curtis Memorial Library, of Meriden.

GEO. VAN NOSTRAND.

Ex-chief of Police of the City of Meriden, Geo. Van Nostrand, under whom the department has been brought to a high state of efficiency, was born in New York City, March 25, 1841. He comes from an old Knickerbocker family and his forefathers were among the Holland Dutch settlers of Manhattan Island, who were afterwards Quakers. He is a son of Ansell and Mary Van Nostrand, of New York City, and his grandparents were George and Fanny Van Nostrand, who resided at Farmingdale, Long Island. He is also a nephew of Walt. Whitman. His boyhood days were spent largely with his grandparents and while he attended school in New York City, the greater part of his education was obtained at Farmingdale.

In 1857 he started to learn the trade of a ship carpenter, but soon after became employed as brakeman on the Long Island railroad. He was promoted to baggage master and later became a conductor on a freight train on the New Jersey Central railroad, which controlled the Long Island railroad. Afterwards he secured a more lucrative and responsible position and became express messenger for Hope's Express Co., his service being on the trains between New York and Reading, Pa.



GEORGE VAN NOSTRAND.

He came to Meriden in the fall of 1867 and was for a short time employed in the Britannia shop. When the Meriden Police Department was organized he was the first man appointed a patrolman and for several years was No. 1 of the department of which he is now chief. During his long service he has been promoted sergeant, captain, and April 30, 1898, was appointed chief, succeeding Roger M. Ford in that office. Chief Van Nostrand is known as one of the most capable and trustworthy officers in the state; and to his ideas of discipline and ripe experience in the business, has the police department of Meriden been brought to its present high standard of excellence. He has also become highly esteemed as a resident of the town and has shown an interest in everything that pertains to its welfare.

He resides on Windsor avenue where in 1891 he built one of the comely residences of Meriden. In fraternal life, Mr. Van Nostrand is a Knight Templar Mason, being a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, and St. Elmo Commandery, 9, of Meriden, but is affiliated with no other organizations.

During the Centennial celebration Chief Van Nostrand served as a member of the committee on public safety.

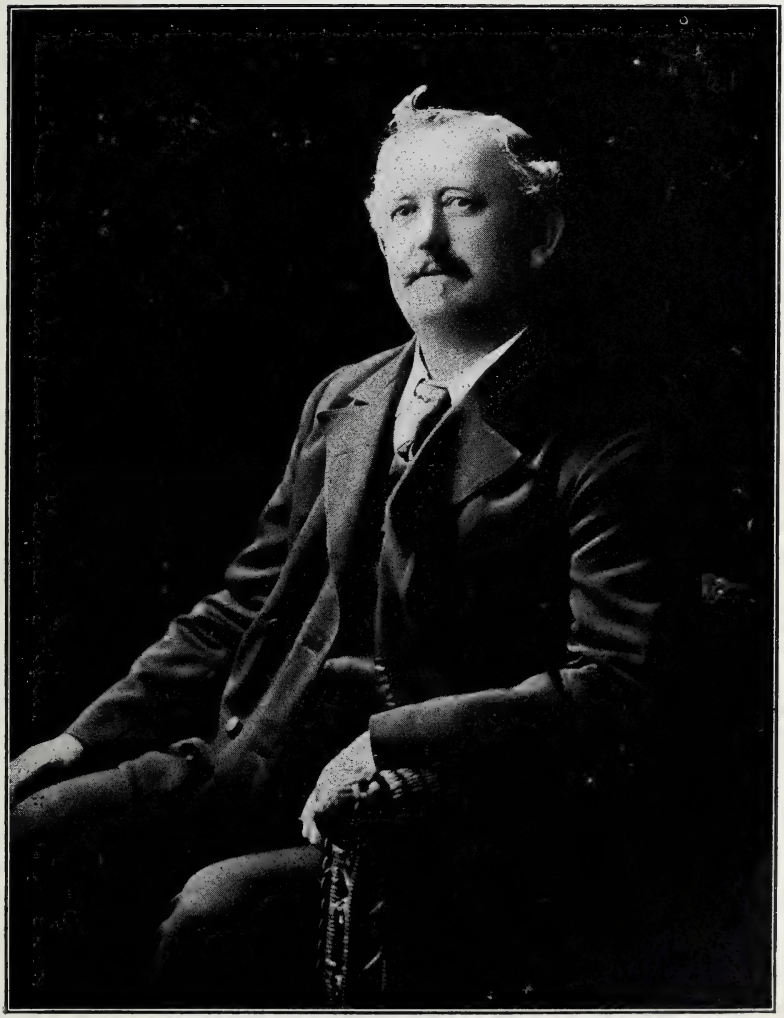
In 1866 he was married to Sarah Kellam, of Glastonbury, Conn., a lady of gentle manners, but with a keen sense of business methods. They have no children.

AUGUST SCHMELZER.

August Schmelzer, a leading German resident, manufacturer, merchant and president and treasurer of the August Schmelzer Co., was born in Werdau, Saxony, Germany, in 1841, and came to this country in 1870. In 1873 he began business in this city, opening a stationery store at the corner of Pratt and East Main streets. In 1884 he purchased the trucking business of James H. Chapman, which he has continued ever since with growing success.

He went into the coal and wood business in 1889 when he purchased the business and property of George C. Beadle, which he afterwards enlarged materially; and in 1893 purchased the land on South Colony and Cooper streets where he had constructed for him coal pockets adjoining the tracks of the Consolidated railroad of 2,000 tons capacity and where 350 tons can be unloaded daily. At the coal yards is all modern machinery for cutting and splitting wood; and in the conducting of his coal business as well as other enterprises he has been assisted by his son, Edgar E., now secretary and treasurer. In 1895 he removed his stationery and periodical store to Morse & Cook's block where he added cigars and tobacco; and in 1896 began the manufacture of cigars which he now conducts on a large scale, his factory adjoining the coal pockets.

Mr. Schmelzer was one of the pioneers of the German-American school



August Schmelzer

association, and since its organization, he has been one of the prominent members of the school board. He is also a member of Teutonia lodge, I. O. O. F., Meriden lodge, D. O. H., Meriden Turn Verein, Cosmopolitan club and the Meriden Saengerbund. And not alone as a prosperous and an energetic business man is Mr. Schmelzer well known to the public, for, with his manifold responsibilities, he has found time to devote eight years in the faithful service of the city government, six years of which he was a member of the common council. On committee work and in the council his honesty of purpose was never questioned; for it was always his aim to exercise the same business care with the city's interests that he did in conducting his own private affairs.

He serves on the committee of reception and entertainment of the coming Centennial celebration.

JAMES F. GILL.

James Frederick Gill, who since 1872 has been associated with the music store on West Main street, Meriden, is one of the best known residents of the town, and a business man of high standing in local circles. He is a son of George Gill, of Meriden, who for many years was a contractor at the works of the Meriden Cutlery Company. His mother was Emma Mitton, and his parents, of English birth, settled in Meriden, his father in 1858, and his mother in 1860. The latter brought with her the subject of this sketch, who has since lived here continuously and grown up with the town. He was educated at the Hanover district school, and as a youth showed a talent for music, which was duly encouraged by his parents. He took lessons from the late T. T. Mansfield, who was at that time organist of the old Corner church,

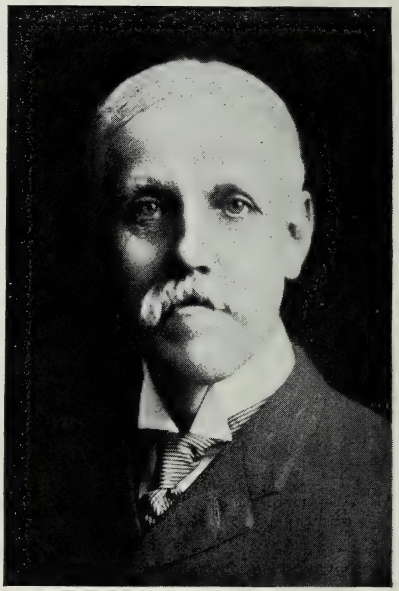


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
JAMES F. GILL.

then located where the Meriden Opera house now stands, and afterwards became his assistant. Mr. Mansfield was also proprietor of the music store where Mr. Gill was first employed and to whose business and good will he finally succeeded and which he has maintained successfully since 1881. Mr. Gill became a music teacher un-

der the instruction of Mr. Mansfield and in years gone by has also taken part in numberless concerts and musicales, showing a deep interest in all musical matters. His music store contains a large stock of pianos and other musical instruments, sheet music, and musical merchandise of every description; and having been established for so many years has become a most natural rendezvous for people musically inclined. Mr. Gill enjoys the confidence of his fellow townsmen in the fullest degree.

He is the present secretary, and was for several years treasurer, of the Second Building & Loan Association of Meriden, the meetings of which organization are held in his store. He is also a well known member of the different Masonic bodies, including Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter; Hamilton Council, and St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar. Mr. Gill, with his family, is a communicant of All Saints' Episcopal church.

He was married January 11, 1882, to Mary E., daughter of Mrs. Lucy E. Hitchcock, of New Haven, and they reside at 195 Cook avenue, with their children, as follows: Emma A., Flora E. and Margaret M. Gill.

A. H. GARDNER.

Arthur Hugh Gardner, senior member of the insurance and real estate firm of A. H. & I. I. Gardner, was born August 3, 1853, in Charlotte, Washington county, Maine. He comes from early colonial ancestry. His great-great-grandfather, Stephen Gardner, was born in Hingham, Mass., in 1727, and his son, Warren Gardner, removed to Pembroke, Me., where the family have remained through several generations and continued in agricultural pursuits. Isaac J. Gardner, father of Arthur Hugh and Irving I. Gardner, was also a well-to-do farmer. His wife was Annie L., daughter of Hugh Potter. He was also a farmer of Pembroke, and was born in Scotland.

A. H. Gardner was one of a family of nine children, eight of whom are now living and from the fact that the soil at the place of their birth is not sufficiently fertile for successful farming, four of the five boys are now in Meriden or vicinity.

A. H. Gardner came to Meriden at the age of nineteen and first secured employment in the greenhouses on the farm of the late Randolph Linsley, through which now extends Linsley avenue, where in later years Mr. Gardner built a comfortable residence for himself. Mr. Gardner afterwards worked two years in the market of S. C. Paddock and later in the store of Augur & Gardner where he continued as a clerk for a number of years until he opened a first class restaurant in the then new Pacific lodge building on State street and continued until he engaged in the insurance business, afterwards taking in as a partner his brother, Irving I. Gardner.

Mr. Gardner is a prominent member of the Main street Baptist church and has taken a deep interest in all its affairs, having filled the offices of deacon, trustee, collector, usher and superintendent of the Sunday school. He has also served as a director of the Meriden Y. M. C. A., is a member of Center lodge, A. F. & A. M. and the Royal Arcanum. He

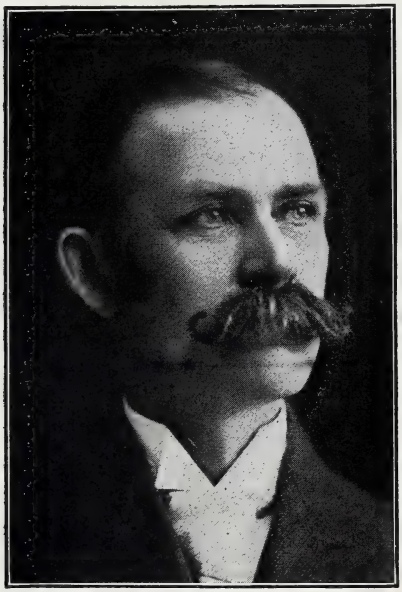


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

A. H. GARDNER.

is known as one of the influential and public spirited men of Meriden.

He was married in 1879 to Julia Pearce, daughter of Captain Marion Small, of Eastport, Me., and they have one child. Mr. Gardner resides on West Main street, and with his brother also occupies their summer home at Westfield.

I. I. GARDNER.

Irving Isaac Gardner, who since 1891 has been a member of the real estate and insurance firm of A. H. & I. I. Gardner was born in Charlotte, Washington county, Me., August 3, 1860. His early progenitors are recorded in the sketch of his brother, A. H. Gardner, immediately preceding. He attended the district school of his native town winters, until he was seventeen years old, following the pursuits of his father summers.

His parents were upright, Christian people and like his brothers he was reared in the paths of rectitude. He attended the Eastport High school for one term and concluded his education at the high school of Pembroke, Me. After teaching in the country schools of Charlotte and Pembroke, he came to Connecticut in 1880. He worked at first for a season on a farm in Kensington where his employer afterwards engaged him to teach the "Ledge School" in winter.

He afterwards went west, stopping at Chicago for employment but continued to Stillwater, Minn., where he taught school another winter, the following spring going further west to Montana, stopping at North Dakota to take up a government homestead. He returned, however, to Stillwater and again taught school there; and the next spring returned to North Dakota to complete his legal "homestead" residence. Finally returning to Meriden, he has ever since resided here with the exception of four years

when he was bookkeeper at the Malleable Iron Works in New Britain.

Since he became associated with his brother in the insurance business, the firm has become extensively engaged in real estate and their business has, from a small beginning, increased to large proportions through their activity, knowledge of property values and conscientious business methods. Mr.

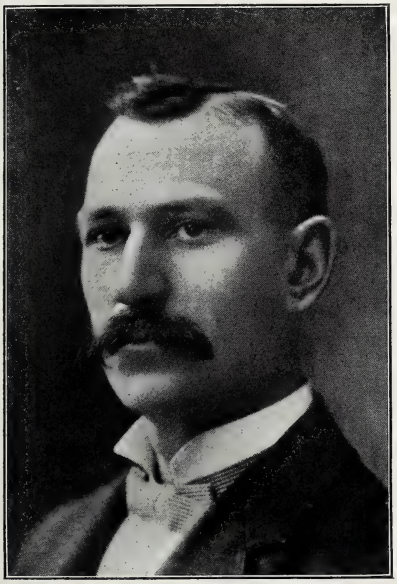


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

I. I. GARDNER.

Gardner is secretary of the Pacific Real Estate Company and, like his brother, is a man of strong personal character and executive ability.

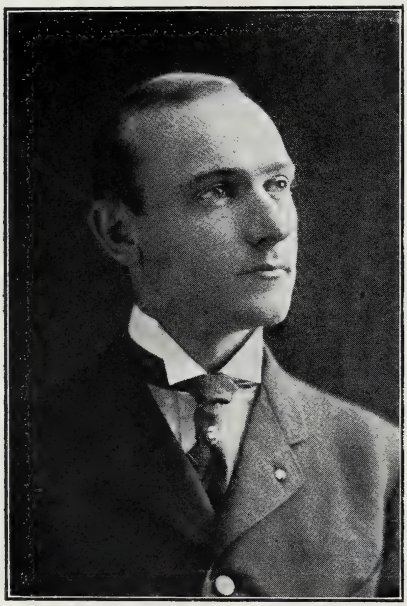
He has been a member of the O. U. A. M. Pilgrims' Harbor council, Royal Arcanum, and is also an Odd Fellow. He is a first trustee of the Main street Baptist church, where he is, at the present writing, the superintendent of the Sunday school. He served for many years as a trustee and director of the Y. M. C. A. and was vice president of that institution during the process of reconstruction through which the Meriden association passed.

He was married in 1886 to Inez B. Upson, of Kensington, who died March, 1904, of pneumonia. Eight children were born to them, six of whom are now living. The life work of the Gardner Brothers has been with their large family, both considering it a higher duty and a greater pleasure to devote their time to its interests, to their home and the church than to the many calls of lodge, political or social life.

CHARLES S. PALMER.

Charles Scranton Palmer, architect of Meriden, is the son of Ralph A. and Sarah A. Palmer, who in 1903 removed to Braidentown, Florida, where for twenty-five years they have owned a productive orange grove. Their son, a young man, has achieved well deserved success in his chosen life work, his reputation having been well established when he opened an office in the G. A. R. building, Meriden, in the spring of 1905. He first became associated with a leading architect and builder and acquired his knowledge of his profession by a fortunate experience in practical building construction. This, coupled with an inborn talent and possession of modern

ideas and good taste, has enabled him to plan several pleasing and practical buildings and residences constructed recently. His success in planning and also in superintending the construction of manufacturing plants in various sections of New Englaand, and now especially the large fire department building of which the city of Torrington is so justly proud, all



CHARLES S. PALMER.

are creditable to his efforts. Mr. Palmer makes a deep study of architecture and is especially efficient in planning fireproof buildings of which he has made a specialty. He has proven himself an architect of modern and progressive ideas and his success has been due to his ability to plan and superintend the construction of buildings in keeping with the age which marks the close of the first century of Meriden's incorporation as a town. One of his notable achievements is the new $75,000 school building in process of construction on West Main street, his plans being selected in competition with those of older and more celebrated architects. He is a member of the Home Club, Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, R. A. M., and St. Elmo Commandery, K. T.; Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Bridgeport. Mr. Palmer stands high in his profession and has shown an active interest in the advancement of his native town.

He was married October 18, 1905, to Maude Elizabeth Hendey, of Torrington.

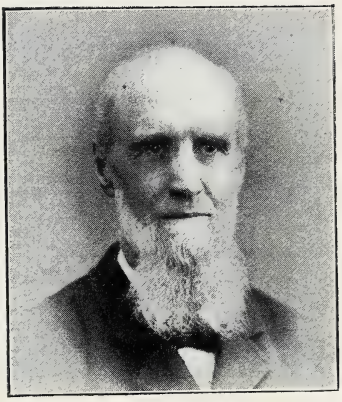
WM. W. MOSHER.

William Wooster Mosher, a leading and valued citizen of Meriden and who for thirty-nine years, as proprietor, has been engaged in the drug business in the same location on Colony street, was born in Canajoharie, N. Y., July 4, 1843. He is the son of Benjamin Weaver Mosher, born at Duanesburg, N. Y., April 13, 1816, who on December 31, 1835, married Anna Maria Wooster. Their children comprised three girls and two boys. He is also descended from Rev. Hugh Mosher, who came to this country from England about 1632 and who until his death continued as a preacher of the gospel in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

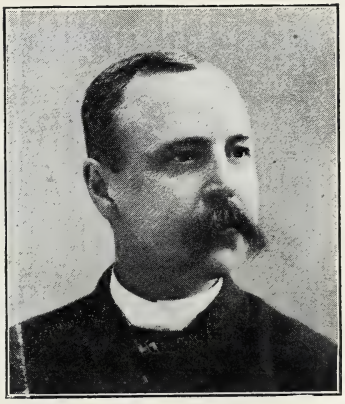
W. W. Mosher came to Meriden in 1865 as a clerk in the drug store of I. B. Klock, but two years after became the proprietor of the present store, which he has carried on ever since with that measure of ultimate success which is but the result of an old established business conducted with due regard for the interests of a loyal patronage. Shortly after he engaged in business for himself, Mr. Mosher associated his father with him, and who continued thus until his death which occurred April 27, 1896, after having been a partner of his son for twenty-nine years. The late B. W. Mosher was an upright and highly respected business man. His father before him was a clergyman of the Methodist denomination and he became a consistent communicant of that faith. He was one of the original members of Trinity M. E. church, Meriden, and was one of its trustees.

His son, W. W. Mosher, has been honored by election to many offices of honor and trust in Meriden, having served one year as councilman; four years as alderman; treasurer of the town for seven years, and city treasurer for two years. He has for many years been a prominent member and one of the vestrymen of St. Andrew's Episcopal church. In 1893 upon the death of George R. Curtis, he was elected treasurer of the Curtis Home of Meriden, which office he still holds, in addition to being, at this writing, one of the agents of the Edwin E. Curtis fund. Mr. Mosher is a member of the Meriden Business Men's Association and Board of Trade, also of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association and Meriden Druggists' Association. He is also a member of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and Keystone Chapter, R. A. M., of Meriden.

In 1868 he was married to Cynthia A., daughter of James A. Frary and to



B. W. MOSHER.



W. W. MOSHER.



W. R. MOSHER.

them have been born one son, William Reid Mosher, born in Meriden August 20, 1869.

W. R. Mosher was educated in the Meriden public schools and after attending the High school three years, became associated with his father's business and since 1888 has applied himself to the interests of the now large and thriving establishment. He is a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association, Meriden Board of Trade, and has for some years been treasurer of the Meriden Permanent Building and Loan Association. He was married September 19, 1894, to Katherine Eugenia, daughter of the late T. M. Smith, of Meriden.

ARTHUR SHERMAN LANE.

Arthur S. Lane, prominent in the public and social life of Meriden, and treasurer of several corporations, was born in Kent, Litchfield county, Connecticut, October 27, 1864. He is the eldest son of John Sherman Lane, concerning whom much is stated elsewhere in this volume. Arthur S. Lane was educated at the private school of J. H. Hurlburt, Lime Rock, Conn., and since entering business life has shown a marked aptitude for the responsibilities he has been called upon to assume.

In March, 1880, he was appointed agent of the Housatonic railroad at West Stockbridge, Mass., the following month being transferred to Canaan, Conn., a station on the same line and still later in the same year to Bridgeport. In March, 1881, he entered the employ of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., where for a period of ten years he served that company efficiently as freight cashier at its Harlem River terminal at New York City. This position he resigned in March, 1891, to enter into partnership with his father who had, a short time before, established the stone crushing and road building business.

The business of John S. Lane & Son has developed into a large and profitable industry and other quarries than the one in Meriden, have been opened and are operated by the following corporations, of which Mr. Lane is the treasurer: John S. Lane & Son, Inc.; Conn. Trap Rock Quarries, Inc.; Lane Quarry Company and The Lane Construction Company, the operations of which are chronicled in another part of this volume.

He is also one of the directors of the Meriden Savings bank. Since becoming a resident of Meriden, he has taken a prominent part in public affairs. He was elected and served as a member of the board of aldermen from the First ward, in 1896-7, and during his services in the city government, was chairman of the committees on parks and streets. In 1897 he was nominated by the Republican party, of which he is one of the local leaders for mayor of Meriden, but was defeated in the Democratic "landslide" of that year.

He is a member of the First Congregational church of Meriden and

has served as a member of its several official boards. He was the first charter member of Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum, and is a member of the Home Club of Meriden.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
ARTHUR S. LANE.

He was married in New York City May 15, 1884, to Carrie Eva Shove, daughter of Oliver Prince Shove of that city. Children of the marriage are: Gertrude Emma and Grace Louise, twin daughters, born March 13, 1889, and Samuel Virgin, born November 6, 1897.

E. T. SILLS.

Elias Taylor Sills, a leading merchant of Meriden, engaged in business as a bookseller and stationer, was born in Nottingham, England, July 16, 1855. His early education was obtained in his native town, but when he was twelve years of age, the family removed to Sheffield; and there he concluded his education by an attendance at the People's Business College, from which he graduated at the age of sixteen. After acquiring a thorough and practical business experience in mercantile life in England, he came to this country and direct to Meriden in 1880, three years later engaging in business, but on a much



ELIAS T. SILLS.

smaller scale, than at the present day.

Previous to securing his present location in Palace block, he had conducted business at two other locations near his present store, however. He

first started on Colony street, where he established himself thoroughly by his painstaking attention to his trade and his thorough knowledge of the wants of a discriminating public. He later removed to West Main street, above his present location but in December, 1901, purchased the business of the former occupant and removed his stock thereto. His store, which is 97 feet deep and 40 feet in width, contains one of the largest and most complete stocks of books and stationery in Connecticut; and the basement, filled with toys, resembles, in the holiday seasons, a perpetual fair. The success of Mr. Sills as a merchant, while somewhat remarkable, is no less deserved; for he has always held the well merited confidence of a large and constantly increasing patronage.

He is a member of the Home Club; Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum; Meriden Board of Trade; Meriden Business Men's Association, and is one of the directors of the Second Building and Loan Association of Meriden.

He was married June 6, 1895, to Winogene, daughter of Mrs. Laura L. Payne, of East Haddam, and resides in his own home on Wilcox avenue, which he had built in 1895.

WILLIAM M. QUESTED.

William M. Quested, cashier of the Meriden National Bank and one of the board of fire commissioners of Meriden, received his education in the public schools of Meriden and Albany, N. Y., finishing his studies at the Jennings' Seminary for Boys at Aurora, Ill., and began business life as a clerk in the shipping room of the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., but shortly afterwards secured a position as clerk in the Meriden National Bank where he has ever since remained. By careful attention to his duties he received well deserved promotions, and after working up through the positions of bookkeeper and teller, was elected cashier of the bank in January, 1905.

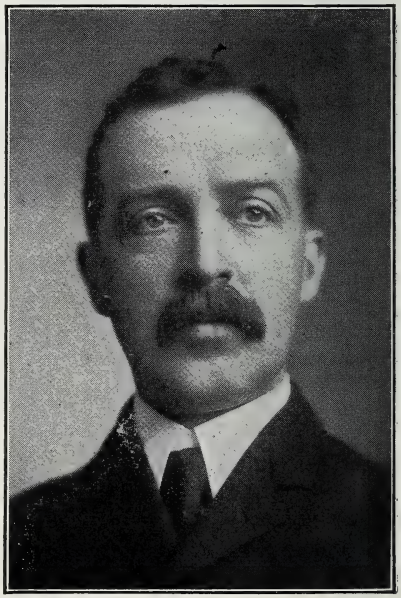


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM M. QUESTED.

While Mr. Quested has for many years been an active resident of Meriden, he has never sought nor accepted public office, excepting that which he now holds as one of the fire commissioners of Meriden. To fill out the

unexpired term of Fred M. Hotchkiss, he was first appointed in 1902, but in 1903 he was reappointed for a full term of four years, in which capacity he now serves. Mr. Quested is a thirty-second degree member of the Masonic fraternity, being a member of the following branches of the order in this city and elsewhere: Meriden Center Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, R. & S. M.; St Elmo Commandery, K. T.; a member of the Scottish Rite bodies of both New Haven and Bridgeport; also of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine. He is prominent in Odd Fellowship, being a past grand of Center Lodge, I. O. O. F.; a past grand of Oasis Encampment. He was formerly a member of the Patriarchs Militant, is now a member of the Meriden Wheel Club, Meriden Rifle Club, Citizens' Rifle Club, Meriden Business Men's Association, and since 1885 has been one of the directors of the Y. M. C. A., of which he has also been treasurer since 1903. He has for a number of years been associated with the Center Congregational church, and during 1893-4-5 served a term as one of its deacons, being also prominent in the offices of the Bible school of that church since 1880.

F. L. MURDOCK.

Frederick L. Murdock, a leading practitioner of the dental profession, and whose handsomely furnished offices have for some years been located in the Wilcox building, is one of the better known professional men of Meriden. He is of English birth, but came to America when a boy and received the greater part of his education here.

After graduating at the High school, he took a course in arts and, upon receiving the degree of B. A., he returned to England and took a five years' course in dentistry at London, under the famous professor, B. B. Wolscott, M. D., L. D. S. He received his admission to practice, therefore, in England, but afterwards went to Montreal, Canada, and took a post-graduate course of three years under the instruction of J. W. Bedford, L. D. S., D. D. S., a celebrated specialist in crown and bridge work. From his



FREDERICK L. MURDOCK.

long college course and diligent study, he was well fitted for the practice of his profession, when he located in Syracuse, N. Y., and first began practice. At Syracuse he associated himself with S. C. Dayan, M. D., D. D. S., a specialist in diseases of the mouth.

It was in 1891 that Dr. Murdock, who was thus especially well fitted by experience and knowledge of his profession in all its branches, came to Meriden and began the practice which he has ever since continued. He has built up a large and lucrative practice, especially with those who comprise the leading families of this vicinity. That he understands his profession in as great a degree as any leading dentist of the state, is acknowledged by his patients and fellow practitioners, among all of whom he is both well known and popular. He is a member of the Connecticut State Dental Association, and is also well known in Meriden social life, being at this writing, president of the Home Club, of which he was one of the members instrumental in causing the present handsome clubhouse to be constructed. Dr. Murdock is an enthusiastic sportsman and is an adept with the rod and gun. He also drives one of the fastest automobiles in the state and is a member of the committee having in charge the automobile parade to be held during Centennial week in Meriden.

LEW ALLEN.

For more than thirty years the name of Lew Allen has been associated with newspaper making in Meriden. In age as well as in years of actual newspaper writing he is the oldest man in the profession in the city. Born in New York in 1852, he came to Meriden in 1870 and a few years thereafter began to report for Riggs' Daily Recorder and Gibbons' Weekly Citizen. He has been connected with newspapers ever since. He was employed in New Haven, though residing in Meriden, at the time The Meriden Daily Journal was started twenty years ago by Francis Atwater, Frank E. Sands, Thomas L. Reilly and Lew Allen. The Journal Publishing company was formed and of this Mr. Allen is vice-president. He has been the active editor of The Journal from its first publication and to it has devoted all his time and energy, engaging in no other enterprises or undertakings.

F. E. SANDS.

Frank Elbert Sands, one of the most familiar figures in Meriden business and social life, is a son of Jesse and Mary Melvina (Turner) Sands, and was born July 17, 1863, in New Fairfield, Conn., which town was settled by his maternal great-great-grandfather and associates, on a grant from the general assembly. On his mother's side he is a direct descendant of John Wakeman, the first treasurer of New Haven colony and is eligible through his progenitors to the Sons of the American Revolution, and of which society he is a member. His

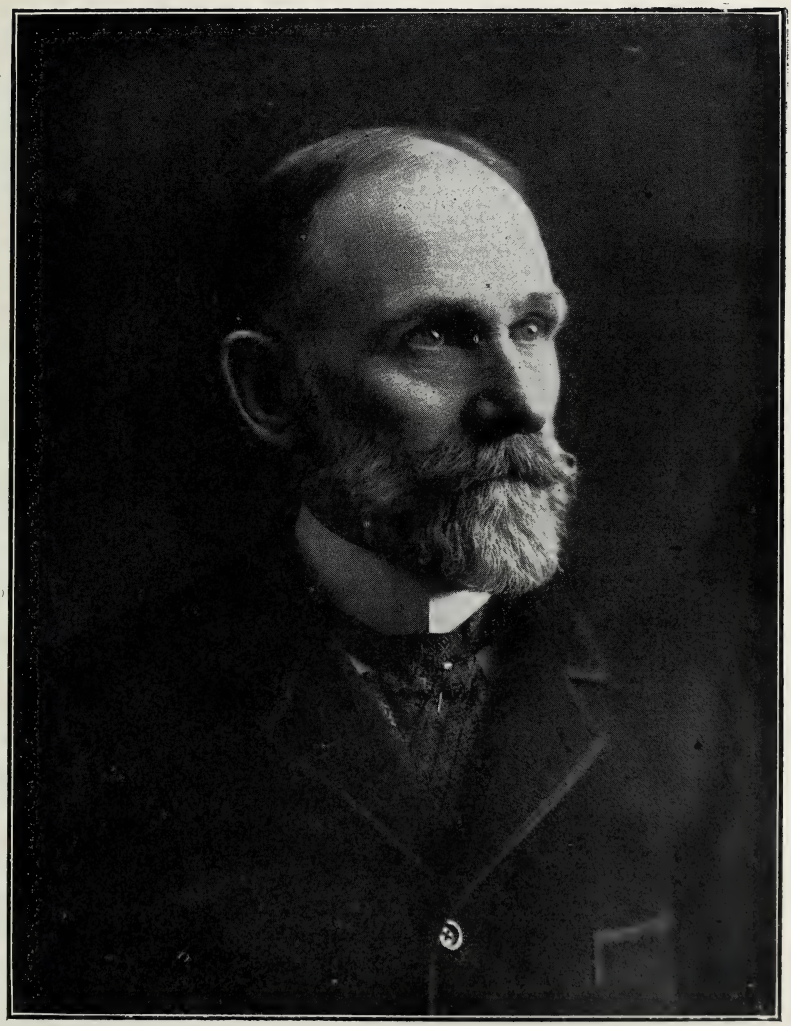


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

LEW ALLEN.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

FRANK E. SANDS.

early days were spent in New Fairfield and Danbury where he attended school until fourteen years of age, when he removed to New Haven. There he prepared for Yale University under private tutors and entered in the fall of 1882, graduating with the class of '85 S. with the degree of Ph. B. as civil engineer. While waiting for the commencement of work on a railroad line to which he was to become attached, he was for a time engaged in the wholesale produce business, but, that not being to his taste, he became connected in 1885 with the New Haven Union.

Early in 1886 he became interested in the formation of The Journal Publishing Company in Meriden and moved to this city. He was elected a director and treasurer of the company and has filled those positions ever since, his active duties being entirely devoted to that company in the positions noted as well as business manager of The Meriden Daily Journal.

Mr. Sands is a member of the Home Club and was for a number of years chairman of its executive committee and its president in 1897-8. He is also a director of the Home Club Realty corporation and was an active member of the committee that planned and built the present handsome club house. He was one of its founders and is a member of the board of governors of the Meriden Golf Club. He also belongs to the Colonial Club, A. H. Hall Council, R. A., the Loyal Addition, the Knights of Maccabees and Silver City Lodge, A. O. U. W., and is a director of the Meriden Business Men's Association. He is particularly well known in newspaper circles outside his own town and is secretary of the Associated Dailies of Connecticut. When the Meriden Centennial was planned Mr. Sands was chosen as chairman of the committee on publicity and souvenirs and it is largely to his efforts that the centennial celebration has been so widely and wisely advertised and successfully carried on.

He was married April 26, 1888, to Alice Louise Brasee, daughter of Judge John Schofield Brasee and Anna (Dickinson) Brasee, of Lancaster, Ohio. They have one daughter, Anna Brasee Sands, born in 1889. A son, Trafford Turner Brasee, died in infancy.

CEPHAS B. ROGERS.

Cephas Brainerd Rogers, one of Meriden's most successful business men and the senior of the once well-known firm of C. Rogers & Bros., was born in Saybrook, Conn., December 30, 1836. His parents, Hervey and Elizabeth (Tryon) Rogers, moved to Meriden to engage in the hotel business when their son, Cephas, was thirteen years of age.

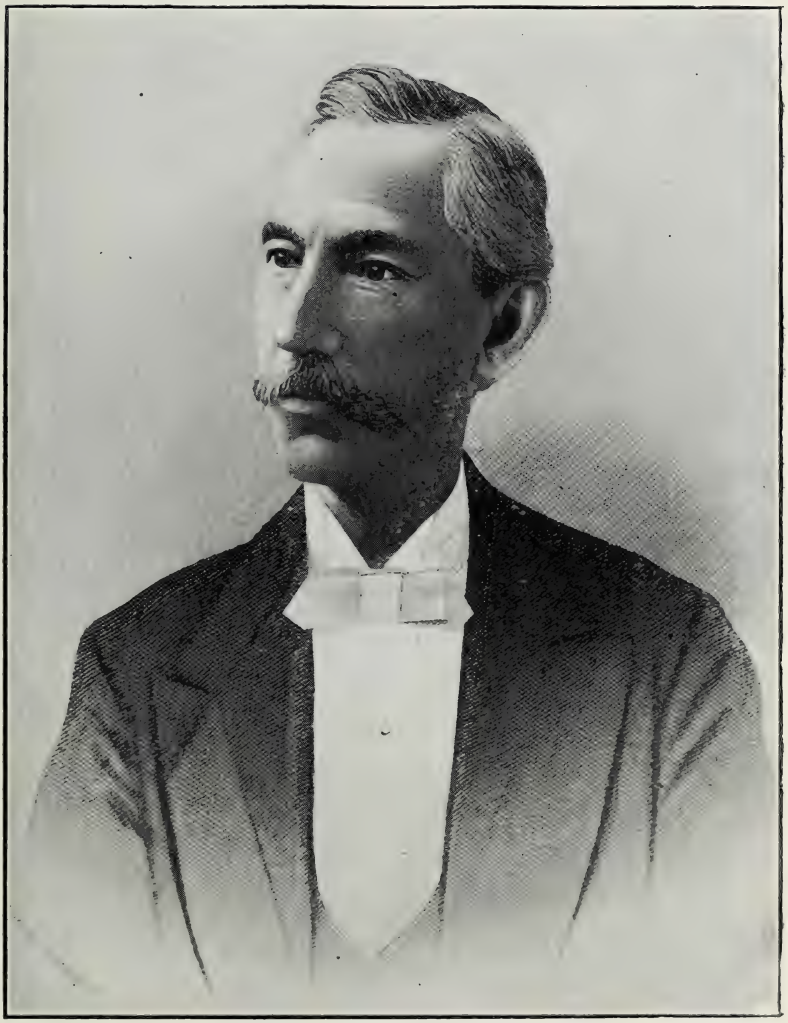
His education was pursued in the schools of Meriden. Later he took a position as clerk in the office of the Meriden Lumber & Coal Co. He again resumed his studies at the Meriden Academy where he finished his schooling; but he has always added to

his education by reading, travel and experience until he may be styled a self-educated man.

Previous to the Civil War, Mr. Rogers engaged as a clerk in the New Haven House, which hostelry was the rendezvous of distinguished men of the state and nation in political, military and educational circles, and he became acquainted with many notable men. Among them was Abraham Lincoln, who came to Meriden escorted by a committee of which Mr. Rogers was one, and delivered an eloquent political speech. Mr. Rogers, who was always an ardent and loyal Republican, was so impressed with Mr. Lincoln that he went to Washington when Mr. Lincoln became president and heard his first immortal inaugural address. Still later, Mr. Rogers took charge of the Wadawanock House, a summer hotel in Stonington, Conn., and soon after became manager of the St. Denis Hotel, in New York City. He was very successful in both enterprises.

In February, 1866, the partnership of C. Rogers & Bros. was organized for the manufacture of silver plated goods. The firm consisted of the three brothers, Cephas B., as president; Gilbert and Wilbur F. Rogers. Beginning in a small factory, the business advanced rapidly until the name of C. Rogers & Bros. on spoons, knives and forks, became known throughout the world for quality and beauty of design. The business of C. Rogers & Bros. was successfully carried on for nearly forty years, when in 1903 it was sold to the International Silver Company, the greatest silver-ware corporation in the world, and Cephas Rogers and his two brothers retired to private life.

Mr. Rogers is also a public spirited man and has always been identified with local affairs in Meriden. He was a valued member of the city council for six years and is now a director of the First National Bank of Meriden and a trustee of the City Savings Bank. In 1880 he made a trip to Europe, combining business with pleasure while visiting their branch house in London. The last honorable position which has been bestowed upon Mr. Rogers is a membership in the National Geographical Society at Washington, D. C. In religion, he is a most devoted Methodist and greatly interested in the First Methodist Episcopal Church, of Meriden, to which he has always been a liberal contributor. He has been a member of the official board since 1866 and at the present time is the president of the board of trustees. In 1888 he was made president of the New York East Lay Electoral conference held in Middletown, Conn. In 1900 he was a lay delegate from the New York East conference to the Methodist Quadrennial general conference at Chicago. In 1904 he was again delegate to the Methodist general conference at Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. Rogers has also been a trustee of Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., for twenty years. He was the first subscriber to the "Additional Endowment Fund"



C. B. Rogers

of that university, heading the list with twenty-five thousand dollars.

In 1870 he was married to Margaret Clark, daughter of Dr. Peter F. and Anna (Goodwin) Clark, of New York City. Mrs. Rogers is noted for her charming hospitality and is prominent in church and social life. She is a member of Susan Carrington Clarke Chapter, D. A. R., is on the board of managers of the Meriden Hospital and also one of the board of managers of the Young Women's Christian Association. Their home is the Rogers homestead, located on North Colony street, and is one of refinement and taste.

Mr. Rogers has reason to be proud of both his maternal and paternal ancestry. On the maternal side he is the ninth generation descended from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of the Mayflower. On the paternal side he is a lineal descendant of John Rogers, who suffered martyrdom in the reign of Queen Mary in the year 1555. James Rogers, the first of the family in America, descended from John Rogers, the martyr, who came to this country in 1635, made the voyage in the ship "Increase," from London, and settled in Stratford, Conn., where he married Elizabeth Rowland. In 1637 James Rogers was one of the six men from Saybrook, who, under Captain John Underhill, took part in the Pequot War. He afterwards removed to New London, Conn., and became prosperous and influential in the church and the colony; was sent seven times as representative to the General Court between 1662 and 1673 and at one time he was speaker of the house. Ichabod Rogers, of New London, Conn., grandfather of Cephas, was a soldier in the war with England in 1812, and his great-grandfather, Ichabod Rogers, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

GILBERT ROGERS.

Gilbert Rogers, for many years a well known manufacturer and a most loyal and patriotic citizen of Meriden, was born in the historic town of Saybrook, in the old Tryon homestead occupied for many generations by his ancestors, July 4, 1838. He is directly descended from John Rogers, clergyman, one of the first martyrs under Queen Mary, born in England in 1505 and burned at the stake, February 4, 1555, for his denunciation of Romanism. James Rogers, his paternal ancestor from whom he comes in the ninth generation, came to America in 1635, and from James first and his wife Elizabeth (Rowland) Rogers, his genealogy in synopsis is as follows: James 1st, James 2nd, James 3rd, James 4th, Ichabod 1st, Ichabod 2nd, Ichabod 3rd, Elam Hervey and Gilbert.

On the maternal side he comes from the Tryon family of the nobility of England. Among his progenitors are Sir Thos. Tryon, who left a large estate; Baron Peter Tryon of Malden, England, who also left a large unclaimed estate and General Wm. Try-

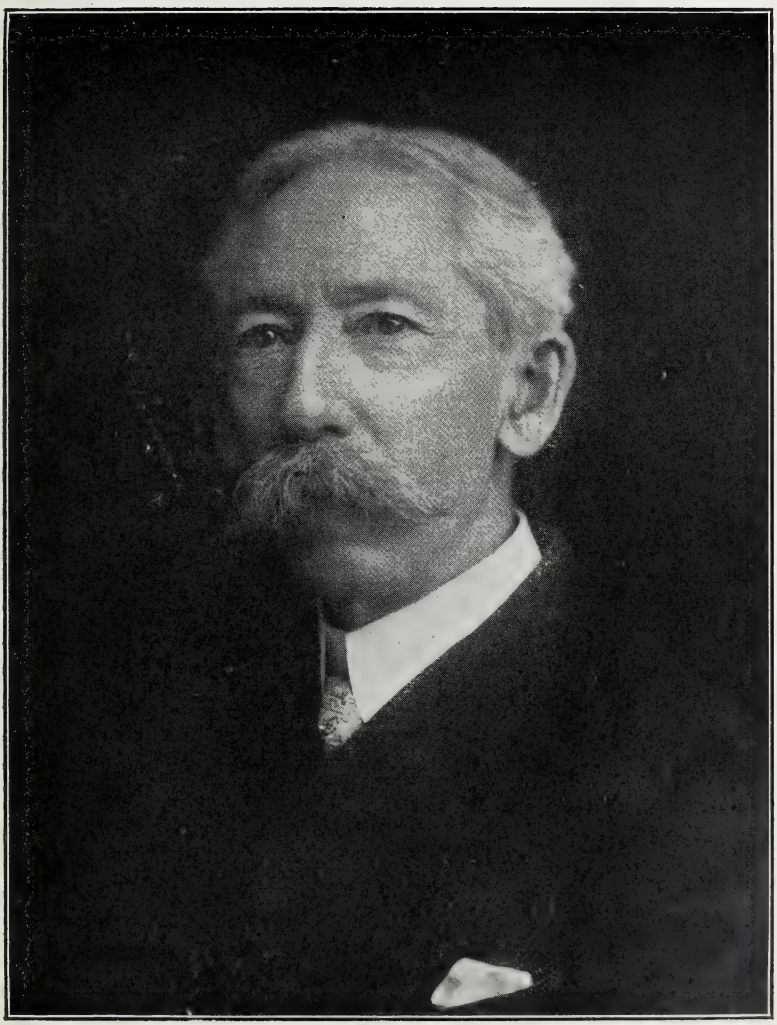


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Gilbert Rogers

on, LL. D., governor of North Carolina in 1765, and of New York in 1771, who owned large estates in London and Flanders, England. He was a Tory and a general in the British Army during the Revolution, and with his soldiers created much havoc in Connecticut; but on account of having a favorite nephew at Yale College, treated New Haven with extreme leniency. On the maternal side, Gilbert Rogers is also descended from Dr. Chas. Goodrich, a son of an English nobleman, also from Dr. Chas. Bulkley, son of Rev. Gershom and Sarah Chauncey (Bulkley), daughter of Rev. Dr. Chas. Chauncey, who became the second president of Harvard College in 1654, which office he held until his death, February 16, 1672. He is also in the ninth generation lineally descended from Peter Bulkley, D. D., who came to America in 1639.

He is a direct descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, his wife, who came to this country in the Mayflower in 1620, to whom he traces his ancestry back directly through nine generations, as follows: 2nd, Elizabeth (or Betty) Alden, daughter of John, married Wm. Peabody; 3rd, Lydia Peabody, daughter of William Peabody, married Daniel Grinnell; 4th, Mary Grinnell, daughter of Daniel Grinnell, married Robert Lay, December 12, 1703; 5th, Jeremiah Lay, son of Robert Lay, married Prudence Belden; 6th, Huldah Lay, daughter of Robert Lay, married Daniel Jones; 7th, Belinday Jones, daughter of Daniel Jones, married Jedediah Tryon; 8th, Elizabeth Tryon, daughter of Jedediah Tryon, married Hervey Rogers; 9th, Gilbert Rogers, son of Hervey Rogers, and the subject of this sketch.

Gilbert Rogers was the fifth son of Elam Hervey and Elizabeth (Tryon) Rogers. He attended the little brick school house in what is now known as Old Saybrook, but when he was quite young, the family removed to Meriden, where he attended the private school taught by Henry D. Smith. He began his business career as a boy of fourteen years, when he became employed by Luther Webb, at whose factory pocketbooks were then extensively made. After two years he entered the factory of Chas. Parker, where he remained for five years, during which time he learned the trade of finishing flat ware. In 1858 he removed to Hartford where he was employed by the Hartford Silver Plating Company, but later by Rogers, Smith & Co. He was afterwards made superintendent of one of the departments of the Rogers Bros. silver plating factory at Waterbury; but after two years, he formed a partnership with Asa H. Rogers and engaged in the manufacture of silver plated spoons and hollow ware, in a factory on Nassau street, New York City. Like many other concerns when the Civil war broke out, business operations were suspended, and Mr. Rogers, returning to Meriden, received the appointment as U. S. enrolling officer, which duties he fulfilled for the government for one year.

It was in 1866 that with his brothers, Cephas B. and Wilbur F. Rogers,

the concern of C. Rogers & Bros. was formed. Building a factory on Butler street, now owned by the International Silver Co., they first engaged in the manufacture of casket hardware, shrouds, etc. Later the firm began making plated forks, spoons, knives, etc., and built up as enviable a reputation as any concern in this country.

During the World's fair at the Centennial exposition held in Philadelphia in 1876, Mr. Rogers had charge of the C. Rogers & Bros.' exhibit.

The large business being sold to the United States Silver Corporation in 1902, Mr. Rogers retired from business until 1905, when he again established himself in the manufacturing world by starting a factory at Westfield, Mass., for the manufacture of casket hardware and other metal goods, which is now largely conducted by his sons.

Mr. Rogers has for many years been one of the directors of the City Savings Bank and was also one of the organizers of the Walnut Grove Cemetery Association, of which he is one of the directors. Mr. Rogers has also served the city and town of Meriden in public capacities, having been a member of the city government and the board of selectmen. He is also a member of the town hall building committee, and the committee of citizens appointed for the Centennial Celebration of 1906.

He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, 22, R. & S. M.; Capt. John Couch Branch, Sons of the American Revolution, and the First M. E. church, of Meriden. In the last named he served for many years as superintendent of the Sunday school and secretary of the official board.

Mr. Rogers has always been a Republican in politics and cast his first vote at Waterbury, November, 1860, for Abraham Lincoln, and whom he afterwards saw riding in his carriage in New York City, on his way to the inaugural ceremony.

With his two sons he went abroad in 1900, visiting the world's fair exposition at Paris, afterwards traveling extensively over Europe, visiting the principal places of interest of Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, France, England and Scotland.

He was married February 6, 1867, to Estelle Victorine Rogers, and to them have been born the following children: Mabel Estelle, born March 23, 1871, married Frederick Arthur Wright; Eugene Culver, born January 8, 1876, associated with his father in business at Westfield; Ralph Gilbert, born April 8, 1878, likewise interested in business with his father; and William and Emerson, twins, who died in infancy.

WILBUR FISKE ROGERS.

Wilbur Fiske Rogers, a distinguished member of the Grand Army, and until his recent retirement a leading manufacturer of Meriden, was

born in Saybrook, Connecticut, July 18, 1841. While he was still a boy he moved to Meriden, and, after attending school here, secured work at the Chas. Parker factory, being only twelve years of age at that time. He soon became very skillful as a silver-plater, and worked at that trade until 1861. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Mr. Rogers, while working at his trade in New York city, was one of the first to respond to the call of his country. He was one of the party of the loyal mob who compelled every newspaper office in New York to display the Union flag and, on the first day following President Lincoln's first call for troops he enlisted. On May 2, 1861, he was mustered in as a private in Company F, Fourth N. Y. V. I., called the First Scott Life Guard, being composed in part of the old organization of New York Volunteers under General Scott in the Mexican War.

Mr. Rogers was in the battle of Big Bethel, the first formal engagement of the war, and remained with the regiment until the expiration of its two years' service. He was in the engagements at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the regiment volunteering to go into the latter fight after its time had expired. For this conduct it received a magnificent reception from the City of New York on its arrival home, where it was reviewed by General Scott at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Mr. Rogers was in all the battles participated in by the regiment and held the rank of third sergeant and right general guide.

After being at home three months he re-enlisted in Company G, Thirty-fifth N. J. Zouaves, and was made sergeant and general guide of that regiment. He was with General Sherman when the latter made his famous expedition across the state of Mississippi to Vicksburg, and his more famous march to the sea.

Mr. Rogers remained with the regiment until the close of the war, taking part in every engagement and never being off duty, wounded or sick in hospital—a truly remarkable record.

In 1865, he returned to Meriden where he formed a partnership with his two elder brothers known as C. Rogers & Brothers.

Mr. Rogers is a Republican in politics, and was an alderman from 1895 to 1899, serving on many important committees. He is active in the First Methodist Church, being a member of the official board. He is a member of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Royal Arcanum, and was a charter member of Pacific Lodge, No. 87, I. O. O. F. In Merriam Post, No. 8, G. A. R., he is especially prominent, having served as commander of his post, aide-de-camp to the national commander-in-chief, inspector of Department of Connecticut, delegate to the national encampment at St. Louis, junior commander, senior vice and department commander of the G. A. R. of Connecticut.



William F. Rogers

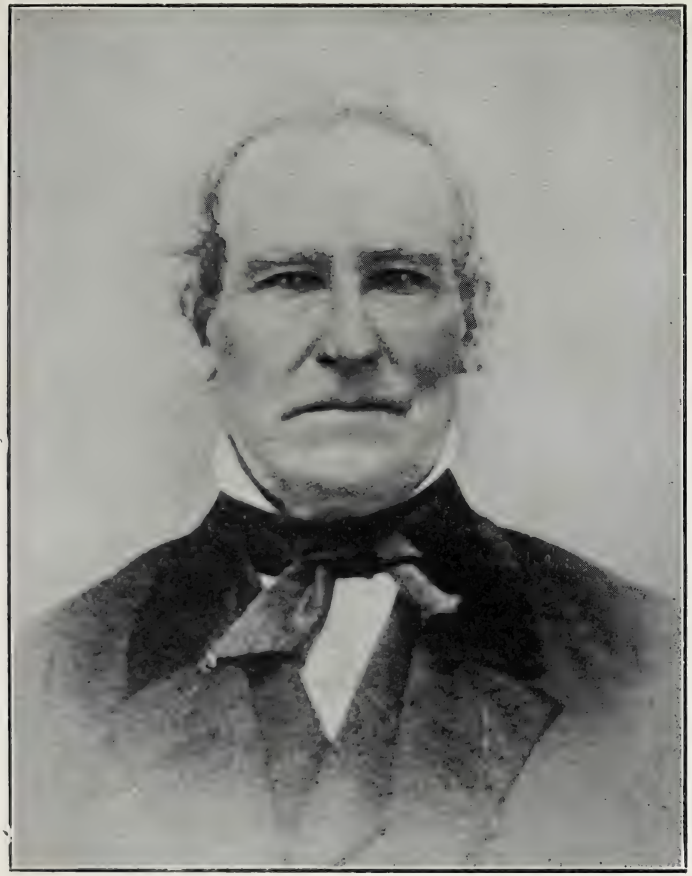
Mr. Rogers is an able writer and speaker, and an upright and highly respected citizen, and has traveled extensively. In 1894 both he and Mrs. Rogers made a long trip abroad, visiting the principal countries of Europe.

He was married January 1, 1867, to Miss Mary J. Corbin, daughter of Hezekiah H. and Maria B. (Ryder) Corbin, and niece of the proprietors and founders of the great hardware manufacturing concern of P. & F. Corbin Manufacturing Co., of New Britain. Mrs. Rogers, who was once for four years a teacher at the Corner school and a graduate of the State Normal school, is a woman of rare personal attainments. She has ever taken a leading part in church work and woman suffrage. She has for some years been president of the local Political Equality club, and the Meriden Humane society. For the past ten years she has been president of the Ladies' Aid society and by virtue of that office a member of the official board of the First M. E. church; she is also treasurer of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage League; was the first president of Merriam Woman's Relief Corps of Meriden, and was the first woman to serve on the Meriden school committee before the consolidation of the districts; also the first woman in the state to be elected a member of the High school committee, of which she was made chairman. She is also a prominent member of Susan Carrington Clarke Chapter, D. A. R.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have had three children: Zula Elizabeth, born September 21, 1874, a graduate of Wesleyan University and a talented linguist and mathematician; Burton Cephas, born April 12, 1876, secretary of the Connecticut Telephone & Electric Co., of Meriden; and Howard Wilson, born December 27, 1879, and died May 30, 1883.

LEVI BRADLEY.

Levi Bradley (deceased), while a lifelong resident of Cheshire, was closely identified with the town of Meriden and built the first brick block here, located at the corner of High School avenue and West Main street. He was in many respects a remarkable man and is remembered for his strong personal character and high attainments. He was the son of Daniel Bradley, a Vermont farmer, who was driven to abandon his farm by the ravages of the British during the Revolutionary war and removing first to Hamden, Conn., finally settled in Cheshire. There Levi was born, November 11, 1792. As a boy he worked on his father's farm where he gave his industrious services until at the age of seventeen he "bought his time" of his father up to the time he was twenty-one and with a horse and wagon filled with goods, secured on the credit of his name, started out to win success in mercantile life. At the age of twenty-one years he had earned sufficient money by peddling to pay for his time annually and at the age of twenty-three years to



LEVI BRADLEY.



ABIGAIL ANN BRADLEY.

buy all of his father's farm. His business as a dry goods peddler was carried on by him with remarkable success and he was given a hearty welcome everywhere he drove his team. His routes extended through several of the Southern states and he carried on his business before the advent of the steam railroad. Many streams had to be forded, too, in order to reach the villages which he supplied with dry goods, as bridges were few and widely scattered in that territory in his traveling days.

His unusual energy and business capacity not only won him the confidence of his customers, but so good and shrewd a buyer was he that his fellow peddlers, and they were numerous in those times, one by one, gradually delegated him to do their buying. Finally, when at the age of twenty-seven he had married and settled down on the Cheshire farm, after he had stopped peddling, he became the New York buyer for the members of his craft, which trust he assumed for some years, his judgment being held in high regard by them.

As a farmer Mr. Bradley was anything but a failure; for his crops were ever large and his land showed the result of care and high cultivation. He took a pride in his property and in the product of his farm; and he won many prizes at state and town agricultural exhibits. It was Levi Bradley who first undertook the production of wheat in Cheshire and after having procured his seed from New York state, his crops of wheat were much admired by visiting sightseers.

He was also the discoverer of the first barytes mine in Cheshire. While driving along the highway where men were plowing on the roadside his attention, which was naturally observing, was called to a peculiar looking white stone and upon examining it found it to be of unusual weight for its proportion. Putting the stone into his wagon, the following day he submitted it to Prof. Silliman of Yale College. His analysis prompted Mr. Bradley to immediately buy an option where the mineral was, which he did, and he afterwards sold the farm to a New Haven firm at a handsome profit, who in turn mined from the property several million dollars' worth of the mineral, Mr. Bradley being for two years employed as superintendent of the mine.

Mr. Bradley was recognized as a man whose moral worth was a wholesome and strong virtue in the community where he lived. While thrifty in connection with his farm he kept well abreast of the times and thoroughly informed on the topics of the day. He was also a great reader, and his knowledge of men and public affairs won him the admiration of those who knew him. His good qualities were recognized by his fellow townsmen in a marked degree; and he was called upon to serve Cheshire in the State Legislature.

He was married September 30,

1819, to Abigail Ann, daughter of Samuel and Patience (Peck) Atwater, of Cheshire. Miss Atwater was a woman of rare personal attractiveness and was called the belle of her native town. She was also beautiful in character and always did her duty as a wife and mother and enjoyed the distinction of being a true daughter of the American Revolution. She lived to the age of ninety-seven and her portrait at ninety-two is herewith presented, accompanying that of her estimable husband. Their children were Emeline Amelia, born December 19, 1820, and married Alfred P. Curtis; Samuel Atwater, born Jan. 18, 1823; William Lambert, born May 25, 1826; Nathaniel Lyman, born December 27, 1829, and Abbie Ann, born Feb. 26, 1833. The last named married Walter Hubbard and died in 1855. Two of these sons, William Lambert and Nathaniel Lyman, the former of whom died in Hingham, Mass., December 15, 1894, achieved marked prominence in the business world from the lessons in industry, perseverance and manly courage taught through the example of their father. William L. Bradley, for fifteen years a resident of Meriden and who removed to Boston in 1862, was the founder of the Bradley Fertilizer Co., of Boston, Mass.; and Nathaniel L. Bradley, a leading resident of Meriden and treasurer of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Company.

Another captain of industry who benefited by the wise teachings of Levi Bradley, was Charles Parker, of Meriden, who before he made his first start from which he achieved world-wide fame as a manufacturer, spent three years on Mr. Bradley's farm.

Levi Bradley died at Meriden March 18, 1877. He was a man of decidedly Christian sympathy and was a liberal supporter to the cause of religion. His life furnished an excellent example for those who are to follow him.

GEORGE GAY.

A citizen of Meriden, justly remembered as an upright man of sterling worth, was George Gay, who, after having been most active as a builder and later as a box manufacturer, died at the age of eighty-one years. He resided in his own residence at the corner of Center and Camp streets, the last eleven years of his life in well earned retirement from business cares, until death claimed him from old age. He was born in Dedham, Mass., October 22, 1816.

He learned the trade of a carpenter in Roxbury, Mass., and at the age of thirty-six years located in Meriden, with which he was thereafter prominently identified. Engaging in business as a contractor and builder just previous to a period of rapid growth of Meriden manufacturing, he made the most of his opportunities and soon became one of the leading builders of the town. In the construction of buildings, he was exceedingly thorough and he enjoyed deservedly the confi-



GEORGE GAY.

dence of the leading citizens of the town in his day.

His first shop was located on State street, but he afterwards sold the land to the Meriden Britannia Company who built a portion of their works on the property which he formerly owned. Mr. Gay afterwards built the shop at the corner of State and Cross streets, where he continued for a time as a builder, but later founded the cooperage and wooden box industry, which he carried on until 1886, when he sold it to Charles T. Dodd.

During Mr. Gay's career as a builder a large number of the factories, several leading residences, business blocks and two churches were built by him. Among the buildings still standing as a monument to his thorough work may be mentioned the following: Factories, Meriden Britannia Company, Meriden Silver Plate Company, J. Wilcox & Co. (now the Meriden Woolen Co.) ; the First Methodist and Main Street Baptist churches; residence of the late Dennis C. Wilcox, now occupied by Mrs. Horace C. Wilcox, on Colony street; residence of the late Jedediah Wilcox, now owned by Dexter W. Parker, on Broad street; the residence of the late Isaac C. Lewis, Main street, in which one of whose daughters, Mrs. Kate A. L. Chapin, now resides.

At the time of his death, Mr. Gay was highly respected, not only as the oldest builder in Meriden, but as a man who always did his duty as he saw it in whatever capacity he was called upon to serve. Mr. Gay was first selectman of Meriden for five years consecutively, from 1868-1872, and immediately following that, was a member of the city government as councilman, and in 1872 was a member of the board of aldermen. As Mr. Gay built a goodly portion of old Meriden and was justly esteemed in the community for his heartfelt interest in the affairs of the town, his memory will still survive him many years.

He left two daughters: Mrs. A. G. Finney and Mrs. Charles F. Linsley, the latter of Meriden.

JOSEPH MORSE.

Joseph Morse, son of Harley and Harriet Morse, was born November 12, 1827, in Yalesville, town of Wallingford, Conn. He came to Meriden in the early forties and engaged in the butchering business. Later, he began dealing in real estate and soon gave his entire attention to this business. He bought largely and made many improvements; and as the years passed his business became large and his holdings of property great, all of which he managed wisely and well. He opened up more streets in the town of Meriden than any other man, among them being: Willow, Veteran, Columbia, Merriam, Walnut, Plumb, Yale avenue, North Hickory, Water, Reservoir avenue, Spring, Springdale avenue, Clark, Hill, Park, Morse, High, Frary avenue and North Spring.

As stated, he was a good manager and possessed an excellent judgment;



Joseph Moore

was energetic and industrious and made money rapidly, becoming one of the largest holders of property in Meriden.

He owned a portion of the State school property and the section of the town known as Morsetown. In 1896 he owned thirty-two dwellings, seven acres of land and five business blocks, being sole or part owner in the latter. It was then estimated that he had about two hundred tenants.

Mr. Morse was also a large owner of land in Kansas, at Wichita, Anthony, Pratt, Emporia, Junction City, Salina and other small places.

Mr. Morse was a self-made man, beginning life without a dollar, yet possessed of good health, and started out in life with a determination to succeed.

He was willing, possessing natural tact and ability, which, together with his energy and close application to business, brought remarkable success.

In all his business transactions he was regarded as thoroughly honest and most reliable, his integrity and honesty being of the highest order. He possessed ability and was shrewd in matters pertaining to real estate transactions.

His judgment was considered very superior. Mr. Morse held the office of town assessor and was also a member of the common council at one time. He was a vestryman of St. Andrew's church and was the last surviving member of the vestry that directed the parish when the church was on Broad street; was a director in the First National bank and a trustee of the City Savings bank.

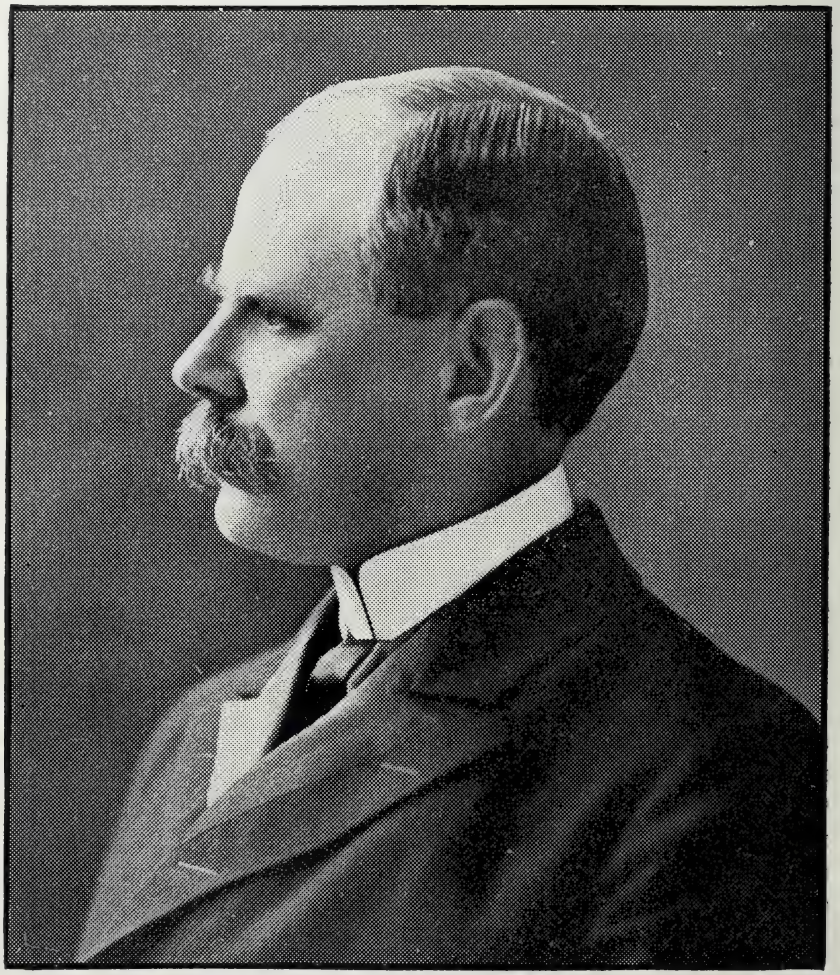
In 1852 Mr. Morse married Lucy A. Hall, a daughter of Casper A. Hall, son of Brenton Hall, the founder of Meriden, the first representative from this town in 1806. The children by the marriage were George N., born October 16, 1853; Lilla E., born August 1, 1857; Eva L., born July 4, 1855, died September 12, 1861; Josephine M., born September 17, 1869; Lucy M., born November 17, 1871.

Mr. Morse died October 16, 1897.

GEORGE N. MORSE.

George N. Morse was born in this city October 16, 1853, at the old Morse homestead, which stood at the corner of East Main and Veteran streets. The building has now been made over into a store and is occupied by the Meriden Tea & Coffee Company.

Mr. Morse is a descendant of John Morse, born 1604, who was one of the seven Puritans of that name who emigrated from England to America in 1635, settled at New Haven; and was one of the founders of Wallingford in 1670, and was a deputy and commissioner to the General Court for fourteen years, dying in 1707 at the age of 103. On his maternal side Mr. Morse is a descendant of Rev. Samuel Hall, of Cheshire, born 1695, died 1776, who married Anne Law, daughter of Gov. Jonathan Law and granddaughter of Gov. William Brenton of Rhode Island.



George N. Mouse,

After the usual training in the common schools, Mr. Morse attended, when sixteen years of age, the Connecticut Literary Institute at Suffield in 1869-70. For several years he was correspondent of the New York Mirror and the Turf, Field and Farm. He has been at one time or another in various mercantile pursuits. In 1872 he was a member of Charter Oak Hose company in the old volunteer fire department. In 1882 he moved to Kansas City, but returned to Meriden the following year; was married in 1877 to Mary A., daughter of John C. Byxbee, by whom he has had two children: John B., born in 1880, and Ida L., born 1882. He has been a prominent figure in local and state politics. At the state convention held in Hartford in May, 1888, to choose delegates to the Democratic national convention, he was chairman of his town's delegation. He was a delegate to the state convention held in September of the same year at New Haven, presenting the name of Hon. Carlos French for governor in the county caucus, and E. B. Manning to the convention for electoral delegate. The latter was nominated and elected. Mr. Morse was nominated for state senator in 1888 and was elected by a plurality of 353. In the presidential campaign of 1888, he organized and was president of the Cleveland Democratic club of Meriden. In the state Senate he was chairman of the manufactures and woman's suffrage committees; introduced and advocated the passage of the cigarette bill, which is now a law. The most notable speeches which he delivered in that body were those on ballot reform, the Westport ballot box contest, oleomargarine, and the Storrs School appropriation. He was the author of the famous Parnell resolutions, which were finally passed by the General Assembly after a bitter contest. He organized and is secretary of the Senate Club of 1889-90. He was chairman of the town delegation to the state convention held in Hartford in September, 1890, and at this convention was a candidate for the office of secretary of state. He is a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal church; Sons of the American Revolution; Meriden Veteran Firemen's association and town hall building committee.

In 1902 Mr. Morse was a candidate for congressman from the Second district, opposing N. D. Sperry, of New Haven, by whom he was defeated. He has never held any town or city office except chairman of the Democratic town committee.

G. W. FRANCIS.

The subject of this sketch, for many years a prominent resident and business man of Meriden, was born in Wethersfield, Conn., a son of Elias and Sarah (Griswold) Francis. He was given the name of George Washington Francis, as he was born February 22, 1831, which fact prompted his parents to name him in honor of the father of his country. His birth-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

GEORGE WASHINGTON FRANCIS.

place was at the old Francis homestead located on what is now known as the corner of Hartford avenue and Prison street, Wethersfield. He was one of a family of eleven children and was a half brother of the late Mrs. Benjamin Twiss, of Meriden. His grandfather was John Francis, third, who served as captain in the Revolutionary War, and married Rhoda Wright. His great-great-grandfather, John Francis, second, married Eunice Dickinson and his great-grandfather, John Francis, jr., married Mary Hatch. His father, John Francis, married Mary Crittenden.

George Washington Francis spent his early life in healthy surroundings of culture and inherited those habits of industry which became necessary when the slaves of Connecticut received their freedom; two of whom belonging to the family, were cared for during their lives by the father of Mr. Francis. George Francis learned his trade in Meriden, serving his apprenticeship under Henry Beadle who conducted the harness business at the corner of East Main and Pratt streets, and upon coming to Meriden first boarded with his sister Elizabeth, who was Mrs. Beadle. In time he became proprietor of the business and conducted the store in which he learned his trade, and afterwards built the present three-story building at the corner of East Main and Pratt streets, in which he conducted the harness business, later adding trunks and bags to his stock of goods, until his death which occurred on July 1, 1872 and which was caused by smallpox contracted from one of his employes who had varioloid in such a mild form that no one knew of his affliction.

Mr. Francis was a member of Meriden Center Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and was affiliated with no other organization. Although he never united with a church, he held a high regard for the Word of God, as a result of his early religious training and for many years was a regular attendant at the First Baptist church. To this church he contributed generous support, until with his family he became an attendant of the Main Street Baptist church at which edifice a service was held in his memory the Sunday following his death, and during which Rev. O. T. Walker, his former pastor, paid him a deserved tribute. Of his life it can be said he acted well the true Christian part.

He was married December 27, 1855, to Emily Fine, of New Brunswick, N. J. Their children are Nellie Gilbert (Mrs. Arthur M. Alderman) and Bessie Francis, of Meriden. Grandchildren that survive now are Howard Francis and Walter Arthur Alderman.

L. P. EDGERTON.

L. P. Edgerton, the senior member of the firm of Edgerton & Immich, is a native of Coventry, Tolland county, Conn., and was born January 31, 1833. He is the son of Justin P. and Mary (Barrows) Edgerton. His father and grandfather carried on adjoining farms at Coventry, where the family

were tillers of the soil for many generations before.

Mr. Edgerton obtained his education by attending the district school during three months of the year and remained upon the farm of his father until the age of twenty-two, when he began his mercantile career by entering a grocery store at Willimantic. He afterwards spent eight years in

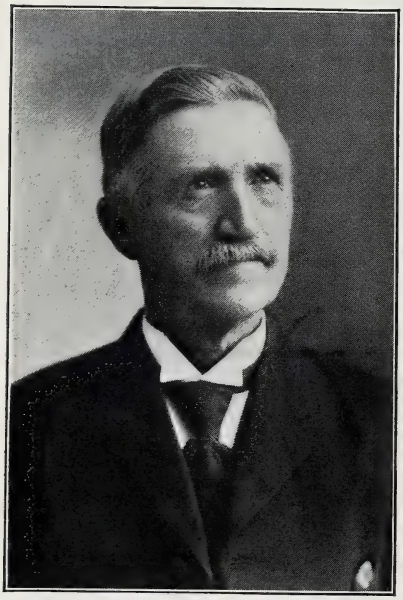


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

L. P. EDGERTON.

New York City with his brother, David B., in the manufacture of cloaks and wraps and conducted a wholesale business. During the Civil war, in connection with his brother, Mr. Edgerton opened a store at Norfolk, Va., which he carried on for six months. During this time his patrons were comprised entirely of northern soldiers, owing to the bitter feeling against the north which prevailed at that time. On account of ill health, Mr. Edgerton removed from New York City to New Britain, and to get the benefit of out-door life he rented a farm, which he conducted with profit until 1870.

It was in that year that he came to Meriden and bought out the coal business of Frederick Williams, which he carried on for two years and afterwards sold to Amos Ives. In 1874 he established himself in his present line by buying out the express and forwarding business of Mr. Forsyth. His first stables were on Veteran street. He afterwards removed to stables on Pratt street, later had an office on State street near Main; and after the railroad freight depot was built in its present location, the firm of Edgerton & Immich bought the land and built the present large stables which have ever since been situated directly opposite. The business of the firm has more than quadrupled in the past thirty-two years, and its growth has been steady and substantial.

Mr. Edgerton's extended business career has been an honorable one and his dealings with the public conducted upon lines of fairness and liberality. His even disposition and genial qualities have made him a favorite with all who have been associated with him, both in business and private affairs. He has never possessed aspirations for a public career, although he has been given ample opportunity.

He was married November 29, 1855, to Harriet Eliza Flower and they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Meriden in 1905. Their children are Frank C., vice-president and treasurer of the Kelsey Press Company of Meriden; and Minnie, (Mrs. Edward S. Thompson), also of Meriden. They have also two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

HENRY L. IMMICH.

Henry L. Immich, junior member of the firm of Edgerton & Immich, was born in New London, April 18, 1860. He is of German descent and his parents were Peter and Elizabeth Immich. They came to this country from Germany and located in New London more than twenty years before their son was born. He was given a liberal education in the public schools of his native town and was graduated from the Bulkeley High school, after which he took a course at the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Coming to Meriden in 1880 he entered the store of Ives, Upham & Rand, which at that time was in the present location of Howard Bros. After being employed in the dry goods business for one year, he secured a position in the Meriden freight office of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad. Soon afterward he became associated with L. P. Edgerton as clerk, three years later entering into the partnership as a member of the firm which has ever since been that of Edgerton & Immich. From his long connection with the teaming business, Mr. Immich has become thoroughly familiar with the wants of the public, his concern is so well able to supply. During the last few years, and owing to the somewhat poor health of Mr. Edgerton, a large amount of the responsibility of the business has devolved upon him; and to his energy and grasp of business situations, has a share of the present prosperity of the firm been brought about.

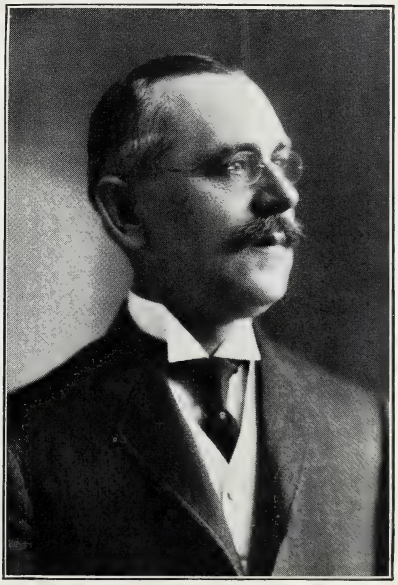


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

HENRY L. IMMICH.

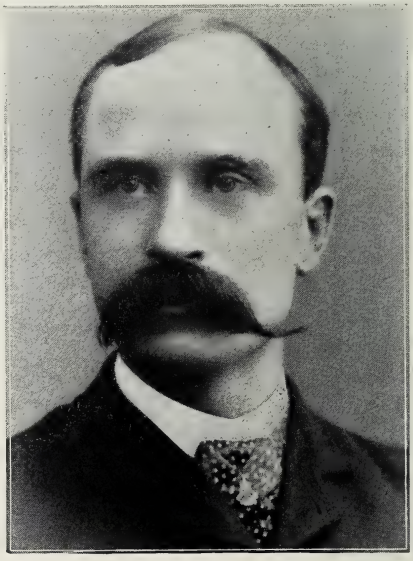
He is a member of Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum; the A. O. U. W., the Colonial Club of Meriden and Meriden Business Men's Association, and is a communicant of St. Andrew's Episcopal church.

He married Adelaide L., daughter of Sarah A. Douglass, to whom two sons and two daughters have been born as follows: Hollis Douglass, who in June, 1906, was graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University; Walter Lewis, Ethel Corinne and Faye Madeline. Since his marriage Mr. Immich has resided at 161 Curtis street, where he has enjoyed the respect of his neighbors as well as in the business circles where he is a potent factor.

J. H. CAMIER.

John Henry Camier, deceased, but for many years one of the most popular men in the mercantile life of Meriden, was born October 20, 1850, of English parentage and French descent, near London, England. After receiving a good education in his native language and growing to manhood, he came to America and secured a position as shipping clerk in a wholesale men's furnishing goods house, in Boston, becoming a resident of Meriden in 1878 where he remained until his death which occurred November 2, 1901.

He engaged in the clothing business in 1879 in the Lewis block on Main street; in 1880 forming a partnership with Almon J. Fletcher, and the business has, to the present time, been continued with growing success under the title of The Boston & Meriden Clothing Co.; but since the decease of Mr. Camier, his interest has been retained by his widow. Upon the completion of the Wilcox block, the business was removed to the present location; but the store afterwards became enlarged from time to time. In 1899 the adjoining store was taken in and the partition torn down, afterwards fifty feet were added to the depth of the now double store, and in 1901 a portion of the basement was rebuilt and converted into a department for the sale of



JOHN H. CAMIER.

trunks and bags. The store is now 127 feet deep and 50 feet wide, of which an uninterrupted view is to be obtained from any part of the floor, comprising one of the handsomest and finest in New England. Mr. Camier became, therefore, one of the most successful business men of the town and was held in high regard by

the numerous patrons of the store and a large circle of friends with whom he became a favorite.

For many years before his death, he was a member and one of the trustees of the Main Street Baptist church; was a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, 22, R. & S. M.; St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T.; and Myrtle Lodge, 4, K. of P. He was married in Boston, October 14, 1878, to Nellie S. Warner, whose great-grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier and who is descended in the maternal line from the Ballou family which located at Rehoboth, Mass., about 1620. Mrs. Camier is a member of the Trinity M. E. church and cared for her husband with great devotion through his years of infirm health.

A. J. FLETCHER.

Almon John Fletcher, who since the death of his partner, has assumed the entire management of the business of The Boston & Meriden Clothing Co., was born at Acworth, N. H., August 15, 1842. He is a son of John and Almina (Tandy) Fletcher and was reared on a farm in East Lempster, N. H., and attended the district schools of that vicinity. After obtaining some experience in mercantile life, but before he attained his majority, he enlisted for three years as a soldier in the Civil war, going to the front as a member of Company G, 9th N. H. Vols. Infantry. He was present and took part at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam, being wounded by a shell in the latter engagement and receiving his honorable discharge from service through his disability.

After recovering from his injuries at his home, he went to Winchendon, Mass., and became employed in a machine shop. After three years he went to Boston and continued to work as a machinist for a time, and later became a clerk in a store there. He came to Meriden in 1879 and shortly after formed a partnership with John H. Camier, who had established a clothing business in the Lewis block, which afterwards became known

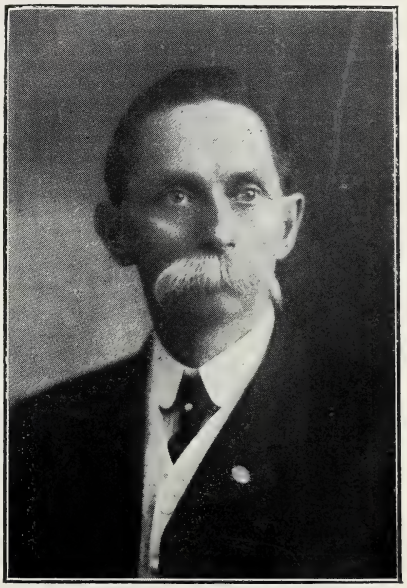


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

ALMON J. FLETCHER.

as The Boston & Meriden Clothing Co., the active management of which now large concern has for many years devolved upon him, especially since the decease of Mr. Camier, as stated just previous to this article. This clothing company has an enviable record for success and fair dealing, extending over a period of twenty-seven years. Few men of Meriden enjoy the confidence of their fellow townsmen to a greater extent than does Mr. Fletcher or than did his deceased partner, Mr. Camier. In 1883 they established a branch store at Middletown which was also carried on by the firm, but after the death of Mr. Camier, was sold to others, the large Meriden store being all that Mr. Fletcher could attend to. Mr. Fletcher is known as one of the reliable and capable merchants of the town, respected for his probity of character and industry.

While devoted to his business, he finds time for activity in church work and is one of the stewards of the Trinity M. E. church, and a teacher in the Sunday school. He is also a member of Pacific Lodge, 87, I. O. O. F., and Merriam Post, 8, G. A. R.

He was married June 7, 1883, in Meriden, to Tama (Davis) Warner, widow of Edwin T. Warner and mother of Mrs. Camier. She was a valued member of Trinity M. E. church and was known as an exemplary Christian character and a kind and devoted wife and mother. She was a capable business woman who carefully conserved the estate inherited from her father. She died January 1, 1892, and was buried at Walnut Grove cemetery.

CHARLES H. PINKS.

Charles Henry Pinks, druggist of this town and active head of the Meriden Drug Company, was born in South Meriden, December 4, 1858,



Photo by H. T. Shaw.

CHARLES H. PINKS.

and with the exception of three years has always resided in Meriden. He is a son, and with the exception of Ida K. Pinks, a member of his household, is the only surviving child of Edwin C. and Sophia C. Pinks, natives of New Britain, and he comes from old New England ancestry on both the pater-

nal and maternal sides. His early education was obtained in New Britain where his family name has been a familiar one for several generations and where his parents, now deceased, rest from earthly cares. He afterwards went to school in Meriden and Woburn, Mass., finishing his education at Wilbraham Academy, Wilbraham, Mass. He began his business career as a clerk in the Meriden post office, under the late Erwin D. Hall.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

RESIDENCE OF CHARLES H. PINKS.

He afterwards entered the drug business, with O. G. Harrison as a partner, later succeeded E. A. Burdick, after which was formed the Meriden Drug Co., which thus enjoys the distinction of being the oldest drug store in Meriden. The place was known originally as I. B. Klock's Apothecaries' Hall and has been fortunately controlled by men who, from the start, have maintained an excellent reputation for reliability and accuracy. In 1886 Mr. Pinks was one of the organizers of the present corporation of which he has ever since been the treasurer and manager; and under his progressive ideas and close application, the business has grown to large proportions, the location being in the heart of Meriden and near the busiest corner of the main thoroughfare.

Mr. Pinks is a member of the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association; vice-president of the Meriden Druggists' Association; member of the Meriden Board of Trade; Meriden Business Men's Association; Colonial Club of Meriden; Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Pilgrims' Harbor Council, 543, Royal Arcanum, and the First Congregational church. Of the last named he was, in 1905, chosen one of the deacons, which office he now holds. He was married in 1887, to

Lillian Beecher, daughter of the late Wm. M. Smith, of Meriden, to whom the following children have been born: Vera Lockrow, Stanley Beecher and Beula Warren Pinks.

HORACE C. WILCOX.

Foremost among the men of Meriden during the past century as regards the development of the business interests of the locality, was Horace C. Wilcox, a founder of the Meriden Britannia Company, and who during the latter part of his life was not only interested in, but one of the founders of many other manufacturing concerns of the town. He was a man of great energy and ability and from a small beginning, became a power in the business world. He was born in that portion of Middletown known as Westfield, January 24, 1824, and attended district school for a brief period. He acquired, however, by observation and study a remarkable knowledge of men and business, and was possessed of a keenness of perception and foresight that was inborn. He was a natural leader, a man of great enterprise and business acumen; and his life was perhaps more useful to Meriden in a business way, than that of any other man. His early life until the age of twenty, was spent upon his father's farm and he began his business career as a peddler of tinware.

In 1850 he was engaged as traveling salesman for James Frary, a manufacturer of britannia ware. He afterwards traveled in the same capacity for William W. Lyman, John Munson and Isaac C. Lewis. In 1852, with his brother, Dennis C. Wilcox, Isaac C. Lewis, James A. Frary, Lemuel J. Curtis, W. W. Lyman, John Munson, George R. Curtis, Samuel Simpson and William H. Johnson, he organized the Meriden Britannia Company, of which he was the first secretary and treasurer. In 1866 he succeeded I. C. Lewis as president of the company, and held that office until his death, August 22, 1890. From the start he became a power in the concern and the remarkable growth of the company, to the largest of its kind in this country, was in great measure due to his wise counsel and able leadership. Mr. Wilcox was a great worker, not only for the success of the Meriden Britannia Company, but for the town of Meriden, of which he was a most enthusiastic, patriotic and loyal resident. It was his delight to see Meriden grow and prosper, and to that end he was instrumental in bringing several important industries within its borders, as well as promoting the interests of the town in various other directions. Through his influence the White family came to Meriden from Brattleboro, Vt., and with his able assistance the Wilcox & White Organ Company was organized. Of this company, which bears his name, he was the first president. He was also a director of the Meriden Silver Plate Company, Manning, Bowman & Co., Meriden Saddlery & Leather Co., The Aeolian Organ & Music Co., the Mer-

iden Street Railway Co., Rogers Bros. Company of Waterbury, R. Wallace & Sons of Wallingford, Wm. Rogers Mfg. Co. of Hartford, Meriden Fire Insurance Co., Home National Bank, Republican Publishing Co., Walnut Grove Cemetery Association, and the City Savings Bank. His last and largest enterprise was the organization and construction of the Meriden, Waterbury & Connecticut River Railroad, and in this enterprise he invested more than one million dollars, with little expectation of any return except the benefits the community he loved so much would receive.



H. C. Wilcox

Such a man as Mr. Wilcox could not shirk his duty to his fellow citizens, when called upon to act in a public capacity. A Republican of the most loyal type, he was elected a member of the first board of aldermen of the infant city. He was also the fifth mayor, and served in that capacity for two terms, 1875-6. In 1877 he served a term in the state senate, and although repeatedly urged to accept other public honors, this concluded his highly creditable career in public office, which was ever distasteful to him. His connection with the First Congregational church of Meriden added strength to that influential society. He was one of the most generous givers to its financial prosperity; was a member of the building committee when the present handsome edifice was constructed, and during his life served on nearly all the important committees of that society.

He was married, first, to Charlotte, daughter of Jabez Smith of Middletown, who died in 1864, and to whom the following children were born: Ella Augusta, who married the late William P. Morgan and removed to San Francisco; Georgine, Walter and Allyn, who died in infancy, and George Horace, who after his father's death, became president of The Meriden Britannia Co., and is now vice-president of The International Silver Co. In 1865 he married Ellen, daughter of Edmund Parker, and to them were born Dwight P. and Horace, both deceased, and Florence Cornwall, now Mrs. Louis Fisk.

SYLVESTER J. CURTIS.

Sylvester Johnson Curtis, a deceased financier and one of the most respected figures of Wall street, was a product of Meriden. He was born in this town September 30, 1826. His line of descent on the paternal side, back to 1639, when widow Elizabeth and her two sons, John and William, were among the first settlers of Stamford, is as follows: Elizabeth, John, Thomas (one of the original planters of Wallingford in 1670), Nathaniel, Benjamin, Benjamin and Amos.

Amos, father of Sylvester, was a representative in 1824 and had held many positions of trust, having been a prominent man in Meriden, and who in 1818 married Louisa Johnson, daughter of Lieut. Dan Johnson an officer in the Revolutionary War. Lieut. Johnson married Rebecca Hitchcock April 19, 1781, and was a son of Daniel Johnson, a trial justice under King George II., of England, who married, December 24, 1734, Joanna Preston; she was the great-granddaughter of William Preston, said to have been an English baronet, one of the first settlers of New Haven.

Among the early maternal ancestors of Sylvester Curtis, was Robert Johnson of England, whose son Thomas emigrated from England in 1632, and from whom have descended many men of prominence in the history of the Colonies, and who became prominent in the affairs of the nation. Among them are Dr. Samuel Johnson and William Samuel Johnson, the lat-





ter one of the first men of Connecticut chosen to the United States Senate. William Johnson, son of Thomas, married Sarah Hall in December, 1664, and died at New Haven 1741. His son Jacob was a first settler in Wallingford, and was born at New Haven, September 26, 1674, and married Abigail Hitchcock. He was the grandfather of Lieut. Dan Johnson.

Sylvester Curtis was brought up on his father's farm in the eastern part of Meriden, and attended the district school here.

He began his business career in New York City by entering the employ of Carter, Harrison & Co., iron dealers. At the age of twenty-one years, he in company with his prospective brother-in-law and several friends, bought a ship, fitted it out and sailed for California by way of Cape Horn. He returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama, after less than a year's absence, having been quite successful. He then entered the dry goods business, and continued therein until 1861 when he identified himself with Wall street, where he later became known as one of the best judges of railroad and other investment bonds. He joined the New York Stock Exchange in 1867, and shortly after established the banking and stock brokerage house of S. J. Curtis & Co. He retired from business in 1878 with a handsome competence honestly earned by his industry and by his mastery of financial problems; and upon his death he left a fortune of about two and one-half millions.

Mr. Curtis was a man of strong character and a keen sense of honor and integrity, never questioned by the moneyed people of New York, with whom he came in business contact; and he was one who treated all men, whether high or low, rich or poor, with the fullest regard for their rights.

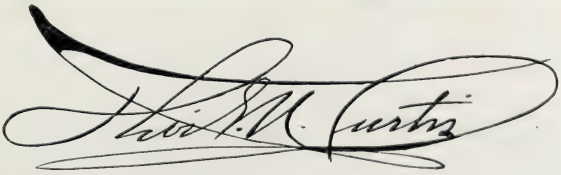
He married Harriet Augusta, daughter of Thomas E. Hulse, of New York City, April 23, 1851, and to that union were born the following: Thomas E. H. Curtis, in New York City, February 13, 1852, and Harriet Louisa Curtis, in Middletown, N. Y., August 13, 1855. Sylvester Curtis died at his residence, 39 West Twentieth street, in New York City, on September 25, 1899.

THOMAS E. H. CURTIS.

Thomas E. H. Curtis, son of Sylvester J. and Harriet Augusta Curtis, and a portion of whose youth was spent in Meriden, was born in New York City, February 13, 1852. His ancestors, as recorded in the sketch of Sylvester J. Curtis, include representatives of old and distinguished families of New Haven county, and of them he is a worthy descendant.

He began his business career after being graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1871, when he became cashier at the New York City office of Brown Bros., of Waterbury, Conn. After remaining there about two and one-half years, early in 1874, he became associated with his father who was then one of the lead-





ing bond and stock brokers of Wall street, and whose partner retiring two months later, he was given one-third interest in the business, which was continued as S. J. Curtis & Co. His father retiring from the firm in 1878, he continued to maintain the good reputation established.

He made a study of railroads like the Union Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and an investigation of their securities on which he was considered an authority. In 1879 Mr. Curtis examined the property and affairs of and purchased a considerable interest in the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad. He later aided largely in securing the release of the Marietta & Cincinnati Railroad Co., from the hands of its receiver; thus he made his first pronounced start in the sea of finance. His extensive operations brought him in personal contact with many of the great financiers of the country with whom he was closely affiliated and whose confidence he enjoyed to the fullest extent.

In 1884 he became one of the directors of the Colorado Coal & Iron Co., now the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., a concern of great magnitude, including among its officers and directors many men of national financial fame. Almost immediately after his election, he was appointed a committee to make an examination of the properties of the company; and upon his return, was made its first vice-president, which office he retained many years. Mr. Curtis became a member of the New York Stock Exchange in 1900, but sold his seat in 1905, having retired from active business.

In 1891 he removed to his present residence in Plainfield, where he lives in retirement. Mr. Curtis is a great lover of art, of which he is an acknowledged connoisseur, and for the past twenty years has been collecting bronzes, rare books, paintings and other articles. His collection of ancient glass, is admitted by all authorities who have seen it, to be the most rare and valuable in the world and impossible to duplicate. It contains pieces said to date 2,500 to 3,000 years B. C., and includes twenty-eight unbroken pieces of the Murrhina or inlaid ruby glass, of which only about thirty-four are known to exist. This glass was very valuable in Rome in Nero's time. Many of his porcelains and other articles are of almost priceless value, and includes the famous Chinese, soft paste, Ming period, Ostrich Egg vase, known throughout the art world. His home is a marvel of interest and his collection is a most creditable one to the country, and has been made possible only through his infallible knowledge, correct eye and an inborn taste for things rare and beautiful, which only wealth could develop. Mr. Curtis is a member of several social and art clubs.

Mr. Curtis was married in New York City June 8, 1881, to Ada Hulse of that city, a lady of rare accomplishments, but whose mission in life, to brighten the lives of others, was cut short February 18, 1896, when she

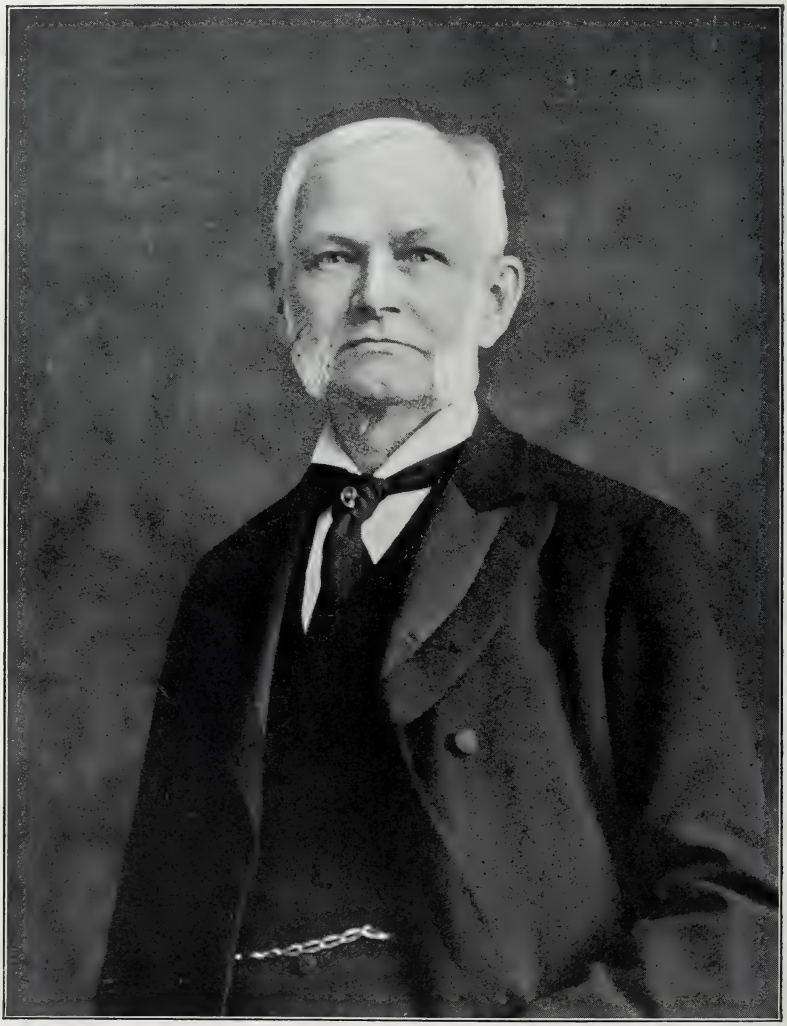
was called to the great Jehovah, after presiding over her beautiful home in Plainfield, and becoming the mother of three daughters, as follows: Ada Florence, Harriet Louise and Sylvia Johnson.

CHARLES LEE ROCKWELL.

Charles Lee Rockwell, president of the First National Bank and the City Savings Bank, of Meriden, was born at Ridgefield, Conn. He is the son of Francis A. and Mary (Lee) Rockwell and is a worthy representative of one of the oldest family names in the state. He received his education at Rev. Dr. David H. Short's School in Ridgefield and at the Fort Edward Institute in New York State; and during his entire business career has been identified with the banking business. He became teller of the National Bank of Norwalk, Conn., in 1863, which position he held for seven years, coming to Meriden in 1870, to become cashier of the First National Bank of this town, which office he filled most acceptably to the institution and its patrons until 1902, when, after the death of the late John D. Billard, who had for many years been its president, he was chosen as head of the institution which office he has since filled.

His long connection with the First National Bank has been one in which his ability as a financier and counselor has been of benefit to the institution. When it became apparent that another savings bank was desirable in Meriden and the City Savings Bank was organized, Mr. Rockwell became its first secretary and treasurer. He later accepted the presidency and still continues at its head; and has from the first given the Savings Bank close attention resulting beneficially to its large number of depositors.

Mr. Rockwell was one of the organizers of the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company and since its organization, the treasurer and general manager of the company and one of its trustees. This company was chartered by the legislature of Connecticut, to act as executor, administrator, guardian and trustee, executing any business entrusted to it by persons, corporations, courts of probate or other legally constituted authority. Mr. Rockwell's financial ability as treasurer and general manager of this institution has enabled him to assist the widow and orphan and to win not only the confidence but the gratitude of a large number of people, with whom he has come in business contact. He was also one of the organizers and is a director of the First National bank, Ridgefield, Conn. He is president of the Miller Brothers Cutlery Company; a director of the Meriden Cutlery Company; was one of the organizers and directors of the Meriden Horse Railroad Company and for some years its treasurer; a director of the Meriden hospital; one of the board of park commissioners and a trustee of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. Mr. Rockwell



C. R. Cochrane

was married in 1889 to Miss Mary L. Everest, daughter of Rev. Dr. Charles Hall Everest. Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell have two children, Mary Lee Rockwell and Charles Everest Rockwell.

H. WALES LINES.

H. Wales Lines was born at Naugatuck, Conn., June 3, 1838. He is the son of Henry Willis and Harriet (Bunnell) Lines, and is a brother of Rt. Rev. Edwin Stevens Lines, D. D., Protestant Episcopal bishop of the diocese of Newark, N. J. He is descended from Rev. Thomas Hooker, founder of the Connecticut Colony; from Elder Brewster, one of the leaders of the Mayflower party, which landed at Plymouth in 1620; from Ralph Lines, who was in New Haven in 1643 and who was admitted a free burgess there in 1644, and who took active part in the concealment and care of the Regicides. Other ancestors were: Captain Nathaniel White, one of the founders of Middletown; John Coit, one of the founders of New London; Nathaniel Bunnell, one of the founders of Cheshire, and Rev. Timothy Stevens, the first orthodox minister of Glastonbury.

Mr. Lines is a great-great-grandson of Lieutenant Samuel Newton, a Revolutionary soldier, who served in the Tenth Company, Second Regiment.

He is also a great-grandson of Enos Bunnell, who was a private in Company Nine of the First Connecticut Regiment, commanded by Col. David Wooster; was present and took part in the capture of St. Johns and the siege of Montreal, and after his second enlistment was an orderly sergeant in Stephen R. Bradley's company, was called out for the defense of New Haven July 4, 1779, and other alarms.

He is the great-grandson of Elisha Stevens, one of the minute men from Glastonbury, who responded to the Lexington alarm and was a member of Colonel Wolcott's regiment during the siege of Boston and afterwards in Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin's regiment. His service as a Revolutionary soldier was more than seven years and among other engagements at which he was present, he served actively at the battles of Brooklyn Heights, Brandywine, and Germantown; went through the terrible privations during the "Winter at Valleg Forge," and was also present at the battle of Monmouth and the Siege of Yorktown.

He is a great-grandson of Walter Booth, also a Revolutionary soldier, who, having enlisted at the age of fifteen, served one year as a soldier in the Third Company of the Fifth Battalion, commanded by Colonel William Douglas; he afterwards served five years in Colonel Webb's Regiment, and was present at the battles of Brooklyn Heights, Kips Bay, White Plains, Springfield, N. J., and other engagements.

Mr. Lines attended the common school at Naugatuck and graduated at the High school, being valedictorian of his class.

He learned the mason's trade in Naugatuck and New Haven, and while an apprentice, taught school two winters in Prospect and later one winter in Naugatuck.

He came to Meriden in August, 1862, to fill a two weeks' contract at his trade, and has resided here since that time. He was employed by George Bassett until May 23, 1864, when with his uncle, the late Charles Perkins, he formed a partnership under the firm name of Perkins & Lines, and conducted business as general contractors for all kinds of mason work, and dealt in building materials. Mr. Perkins retired in 1878 and the firm of H. Wales Lines & Co. was formed, Mr. Lines taking as a partner, H. E. Fairchild. The present large corporation of which Mr. Lines has for many years been the head, was organized as a joint stock company under the style of The H. Wales Lines Company in 1888, and much concerning it is stated elsewhere in this volume. The growth of this business under his management has reflected much credit on Meriden, for many of the most imposing buildings, not only in this state, but far outside of it, are evidences of its thorough and conscientious work. During forty-two years these companies have not missed a weekly pay-roll and have never been involved in a law suit.

Mr. Lines is the president and treasurer of The H. Wales Lines Co.; director of the C. F. Monroe Co., of Meriden; director of the Chapin-Stephens Co., Pine Meadow, Conn.; treasurer and a director of the New Haven Investment Co.; president Pacific Real Estate Co.; president Meriden Machine Tool Co.; vice-president Meriden Savings Bank and has been extensively interested in various other large enterprises.

He served two terms as a member of the Board of Education and two terms in the Common Council, 1868-9. In 1872 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Connecticut and was a member of the committee on railroads.

Mr. Lines was nominated for mayor in 1876, being the first mayor chosen under strict party alignments, and was elected by a majority of 161; second term majority, 318; third term majority, 566. After serving three terms he declined a unanimous renomination for a fourth term. During his first term the common council was a tie politically and during his third term it was unanimously Republican.

At the commencement of his first term the city offices were in six different localities and before the close of his third term all, with the exception of the police department, were located in the town hall.

Under his administration the fire alarm system was introduced. Before his first term only surveys of improvements on two streets had been recorded. During his administration nearly or quite all the old surveys were placed upon record.

In his first term the revenues of the water department were not suf-



H. Waterhouse

ficient to pay its running expenses and the interest upon the water bonds. A new water main was laid from Merimere to the center of the city; the meter system was introduced and the management of the department was placed in the hands of one responsible commissioner. The water consumption was diminished, the revenues increased and at the close of his third term from the surplus a sinking fund was established to provide for payment of bonds when they should mature.

During his first term the legal expenses were large, as the city had more than twenty law suits pending. Before the close of his last term these expenses were very light and at its termination every law suit had been settled.

Two new fire houses were built while he was mayor, the equipment of the department improved and its efficiency greatly increased.

Economy was introduced in the management of every city department, the efficiency of each was increased and the expense of each was reduced. The first year that the city had been managed within its income and the city debt reduced was the first year of his administration, and his first annual report gave to the citizens of Meriden the first debt statement and the first table of appropriations, expenditures and unexpended balances.

The rate of the city tax during his first term was eight and one-half mills and the city debt was reduced that year $6,519. The second year the city tax rate was eight mills and the city debt was reduced $17,537. The third year the city tax rate was seven and one-half mills and the city debt was reduced $24,954.

Under Mr. Lines' administration a complete revision of the city charter was made, and also a thorough reformation in regard to the running of the city by departments; and the system of keeping accounts introduced by him has been continued ever since by the city officials.

During his three terms as mayor, comprising the years 1877-8-9, the city made a very creditable showing in public improvements.

In 1879 Mr. Lines was by a majority of 491 elected from the Sixth district to the State Senate and served in that body two sessions. In the senate he was chairman of the Committee on Cities and Boroughs, and Capitol Furnishings, Buildings and Grounds and Contested Elections. During the three terms he served in either branch of the General Assembly each Meriden matter in his charge passed without change or amendment. He never lost a committee report nor was one amended except upon his motion.

It was during his service in the Senate that the late Honorable O. H. Platt received his first election as United States senator from Connecticut.

In 1888 Mr. Lines was the Republican candidate for Congress from the Second district, being defeated by between 700 and 800 votes; the Democratic candidate for president at the

same election carried the district by 2,500 majority and the Democratic candidate for governor by 3,200.

In 1902 Mr. Lines was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, elected by a majority of 690, and was twice appointed a member of the two special committees to secure an agreement on the representation question.

Mr. Lines is a member of the commission to remodel and improve the state capitol and to report to the General Assembly a suitable separate building for the State Library and Supreme Court together with estimates of the cost of construction of the same; and a member of the Fort Griswold Tract Commission which has the care of the old Fort Griswold battle grounds on Groton Heights.

He is also chairman of the Senator O. H. Platt memorial commission.

As a private citizen, Mr.. Lines has always taken an active part in advancing the interests of Meriden, and all plans for the development of the town have been favored by him.

In March, 1879, at a meeting of the citizens of Meriden, held in the old Town hall, he recommended a plan of action, which being followed, secured to the business of Meriden its first general and considerable reduction of freight rates and improved conditions as to the delivery of manufactured goods at their destinations.

He was one of those who after several defeats in town meeting, finally succeeded in securing the passage of the resolution establishing in 1881 a high school in Meriden and an appropriation for the support of the same.

He is chairman of Town Hall Building Committee, appointed to build the new town hall, in accordance with the report of which he is the author and which was adopted in a town meeting held March 25, 1904. The first appropriation for the construction of the building was $150,000, and the original contract was made within that limit. A second appropriation of $62,000 to make the building more nearly fireproof and improve its exterior, was afterwards made and the building is now being completed within the appropriation.

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Lines, Congress has been asked to make a more adequate appropriation than $100,000 for the proposed new federal building and has furnished to the committee having the matter in charge revised plans, estimates and other data used in support of their claims.

When in August, 1878, the tornado created such fearful death and destruction at Wallingford, Mayor Lines called the first public meeting held in Connecticut, was appointed chairman of the relief committee and had the satisfaction of transmitting something more than $2,000 to Warden Charles D. Yale for the relief of the sufferers in the mother town.

During the famine in Ireland Mr. Lines was one of the speakers at the meeting held in the old Town hall, February 9, 1880, and in response to his appeal a large sum was then and there pledged for the relief of the

needy and helpless people of Ireland. He was two years in succession chairman of the committee that raised a goodly subscription for the relief of the citizens of Memphis, Tenn., during the epidemic of yellow fever.

He has been a staunch friend of the Union soldier and has always been ready to secure a just recognition of his claims. He keenly appreciates and preserves carefully many votes of thanks received from the local Grand Army Post.

Mr. Lines, although he has an extensive career as a public man and during the past forty years has been honored with many prominent positions within the gift of the people of the town and city, has never sought any political office, and his public services have been given unselfishly and in all cases without pecuniary consideration.

His opinion and judgment upon any matter is slowly formed and firmly held. Precise in speech, accurate in method and of a commanding personality, his mental strength and his large grasp upon affairs have always made him a dominating force in any company. He was never known to use illiberal language towards an enemy nor to abandon a friend.

He is a forceful public speaker of the deliberative type, carefully weighing every word, seeking always to be correct in what he states rather than to be eloquent, and to convince rather than to please.

In politics he is a Republican, and although he never sought political honors he has for more than a quarter of a century been regarded all over Connecticut as a wise and sound adviser in matters affecting party policies and candidates. He took an active part in making two notable contributions to the service of good government which have become political history in the state; the first was in 1879 when, as chairman of the organization which conducted the campaign, the late Hon. O. H. Platt was elected to the United States Senate; the second was in 1902 when he conceived the idea, and directed the campaign which brought about the nomination of the Hon. Abiram Chamberlain for governor of Connecticut, he having had the honor of presenting the name of Mr. Chamberlain to the Republican state convention.

Mr. Lines is a member of the following organizations: Young Men's Republican Club, New Haven; Home and Colonial Clubs, Meriden; Connecticut Historical Society; New Haven Colony Historical Society; a life member of New London County Historical Society; one of the board of managers of the Conn. Society, Sons of American Revolution; and president of Captain John Couch Branch, Meriden, Conn., Society Sons of American Revolution; director Meriden Board of Trade; life member Y. M. C. A. of Meriden; member Mayors' Association of Connecticut. He is a member of the order of Royal Arcanum; Knights of Honor and I. O. O. F.; Mecca Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, New York City; Mer-

idian Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Meriden.

He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., of which he served as worshipful master in 1872. Although knighted at New Haven he is one of the charter members of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar, of Meriden, in which he served as eminent commander, in 1869, 1870, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1888, and of which he has now been treasurer for twenty-seven years.

Mr. Lines received his thirty-third and last degree, becoming a member of the Supreme Council at Chicago, Ill., the highest governing body of that rite in the northern jurisdiction, at its annual session September 19, 1893. He is also member of the Royal Order of Scotland; honorary member Harmony Lodge, 42, F. & A. M., Waterbury, Conn.; and is chairman of the board of visitors of the Connecticut Masonic Home at Wallingford. Mr. Lines in 1877 and 1878 was the grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Connecticut. He is now Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, of U. S. A. His first election was in 1886 and all his later elections have been by unanimous vote.

His Masonic biography says of him: "In all these organizations he has shown the qualities that adorn his individuality. Possessed of a well balanced mind and of a tenacious purpose, he has exercised an influence upon his associates, and in many things of enterprise and larger undertaking he has made good proof of his capabilities as a prudent adviser, and a wise and courageous leader. He is a man possessed of strong convictions and of generous and gentle sentiments as well; large minded and tolerant, his heart responds to the truths and principals fundamental in Masonic teaching and whose life is held to loving service in the ways of righteousness and true benevolence."

The above sentiments so warmly put are no less true as applied to his forty and more years as a citizen of the town of Meriden, where as a kind and considerate neighbor and staunch friend of the worthy he has endeared himself to his fellow townsmen by his loyalty to their best interests.

Mr. Lines was married June 23, 1861, to Sarah (Congdon), daughter of Rev. Washington and Louisa (Nichols) Munger, of Waterford, Conn., and to them the following children have been born: Harriet L. (Mrs. Robert L. Peck) Kensington, Conn.; Henry W., who died in infancy; Sarah L. (Mrs. Frank L. Hamilton), Meriden, Conn.; Clara B. (Mrs. Roger B. de Bussy), Winchester, Mass.; Ellie M. (Mrs. Frank M. Chapin), Pine Meadow, Conn., grand worthy matron of the order of the Eastern Star of Connecticut.

CHARLES THOMPSON DODD.

Charles Thompson Dodd, manufacturer of Meriden, and son of Samuel and Catherine Dodd, was born in Meriden October 23, 1859. He is descend-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Charles D. Dodd

ed from early colonial ancestry on both the paternal and maternal sides. He received his early education at private schools and took his preparatory course at the Collegiate and Commercial Institute, New Haven. He took the scientific or engineering course at Yale and graduated from that college in 1879. He began his business life as an employe of the Hartford Engineering Company and previous to engaging in manufacturing on his own account acquired further practical experience in the offices of the E. W. Bliss Co., Brooklyn, the Wilcox Silver Plate and Meriden Gas Light companies. In 1886 he purchased the cooperage and packing case factory of George Gay, which business he has carried on to the present time with increasing success, having added largely to the operations of his predecessor. He employs about twenty-five hands and the output of the factory not being confined to Meriden, is shipped to different parts of the state. The packing cases, casks and barrels made at the busy plant are of the most substantial character and put together upon honor.

Mr. Dodd enjoys a high reputation in the manufacturing world and is a familiar figure in social life. He is a member of the Quinnipiac and Union League Clubs, of New Haven; a member and one of the founders of Omicron chapter of Chi Phi of Yale College; a member of the Yale Club of New York City; Home Club of Meriden, and the Meriden Board of Trade. He is also a leading member of the Meriden Golf Club and is known as one of "the syndicate."

He was married in 1887 to Miss Etta Cheesborough Smith, daughter of Gershom B. Smith, of New York.

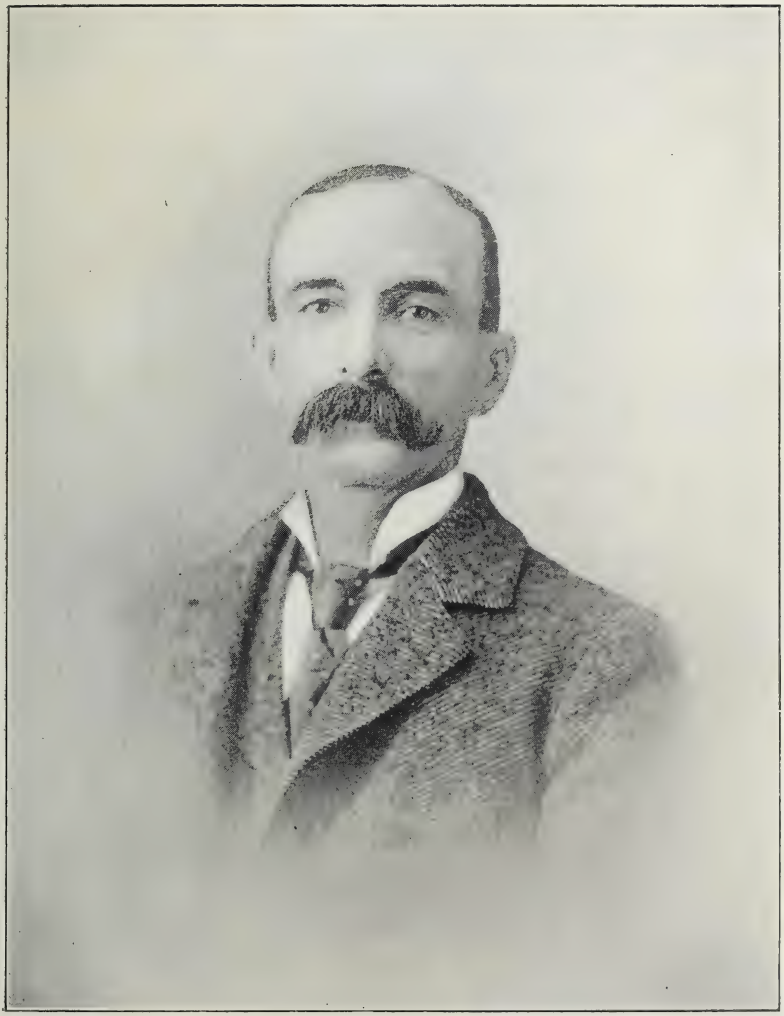
J. H. PRESTON.

John Henry Preston, for thirty-eight years engaged in the fish business in the immediate vicinity of his present store, is a native of Cheshire, but for the most of his life has resided in Meriden. He is a son of Lucius and Elizabeth Preston and his family name is one identified with Cheshire for several generations back. He was educated in the public schools of that town and concluded his education at the Cheshire Academy.

When the war broke out he enlisted in Litchfield but after arriving at New Haven, with many of his young friends, he was sent back to Cheshire, the authorities refusing to assign him to active service on account of his youth. In May, 1862, he again enlisted at Cheshire, this time with better success and was sent to the front in Company A, 20th Conn. Vols., with which regiment he saw a year and a half active service, afterwards being assigned to further service in the First Conn. Heavy Artillery, in which he continued until the close of the war. He served as a private throughout his three years' term of enlistment and he was one of the many who were taken prisoners at Chancellorsville.

He began his successful mercantile life as a clerk in the fish market of





J. W. Preston

John Beach, located in the basement of what was then known as Rogers Hotel. Some time later near that location he opened a fish market with R. K. Pitkin, which partnership continued for a period of two years, when Mr. Pitkin retired from the fish business and went to Kansas City, and since that time Mr. Preston has continued business each year with growing success. It was in 1901 that he removed to his present market, 39 East Main street, which was fitted up by him with all modern conveniences and which comprises one of the most attractive in all New England. He employs a large number of clerks and supplies the first families of the city with all kinds of sea food, in which he deals exclusively. He stands high as a business man and resident of Meriden and has shown a disposition to lend his influence and give of his means to further all commendable and charitable objects. He is also possessed of a large amount of local pride and public spirit. He is a member of the Meriden Business Men's Association and of the Meriden Conclave, Independent Order of Heptasophs.

He was married April 20, 1867, to Elizabeth Clark, of Wallingford, and resides in his own comfortable home, 32 Orange street.

JAMES A. CURTISS.

James Anson Curtiss, one of the active men of Meriden of 1906, was born at Cheshire, Conn., February 23, 1846. His parents were John L. and Ellen (Mathews) Curtiss. He received a good common school education and at the age of fifteen went to Iowa City, Iowa, where he obtained his first insight into business life in his father's store. He, later, at Kankakee City, Ill., became a clerk in a grocery store where he added to his experience, but at nineteen he was called upon to return to Connecticut to attend to the business interests of his grandmother. At the age of twenty-one he married, November 6, 1867, Hester A. Morgan, of Plainville, securing a clerkship in a grocery store in that near-by town. His industry and courage, ever apparent, were especially shown two years later when he became the proprietor of a general store at South Meriden. His success was such that at the end of three years more he was enabled to start the "Old Original Cash Grocery" at 17 Colony street which in later years became owned by C. N. Dutton & Co., and afterwards by H. C. Bibeau. This store Mr. Curtiss continued for twelve years, during which he not only built up a large trade but an enviable reputation for honorable business dealings and low prices; the latter he was enabled to do with the aid of that most desirable quantity "cash sales," which was his watchword and which ever proved a benefit, both to him and his customers. Through his success as a retail grocer, speculator in horses and operator of local real estate; and by the aid of various enterprises in which he gradually became interested, he was enabled to engage in the wholesale grocery trade,



RESIDENCE OF JAMES A. CURTISS.



WAREHOUSE OF JAMES A. CURTISS.

Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

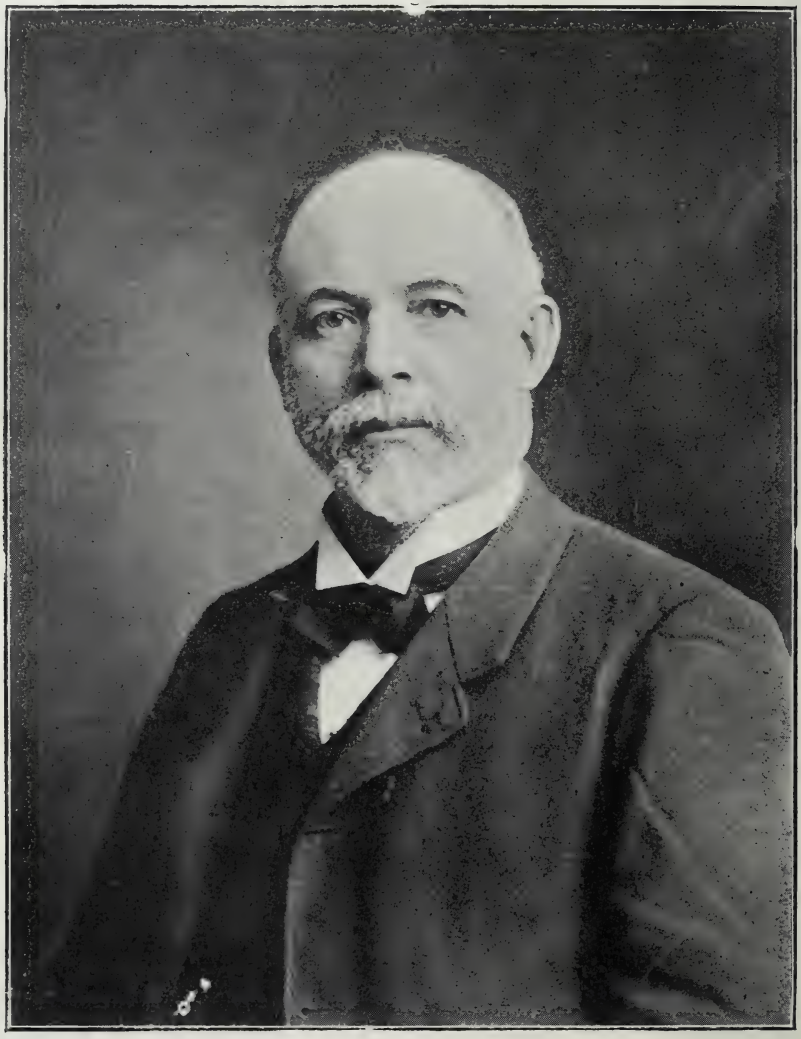


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

James A. Curtiss

his first jobbing house being at 102 West Main street. Growth of business compelled him in 1900 to remove to the location, 136 State street, where excellent railroad facilities are enjoyed and which Mr. Curtiss occupies for the purposes of his wholesale grocery and coffee roasting business, a large three-story brick building with a frontage of 100 or more feet.

His wholesale trade has for some years, therefore, been well established; and by buying his goods as advantageously as New York and Boston wholesalers, he is enabled to meet the closest competition.

Mr. Curtiss has had an eye to improving local real estate and has gradually become one of the larger taxpayers of the town. He has also become extensively interested in the printing business. He was president and almost sole owner of the Converse Publishing Co., capitalized at $40,000; and, since its organization has been a large stockholder and president of the Curtiss-Way Co.

He is a member of King Hiram Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of New Haven, and is also a Royal Arch Mason. He is a member of the First M. E. church, and for many years has been one of the trustees. His residence on Linsley avenue is one of the comely and comfortable Meriden domiciles. He has one daughter, Bertha Ellen Curtiss.

FRANK TREAT SOUTHWICK.

Frank Treat Southwick, musician, composer, lecturer and bibliophile, was born in Cromwell, Conn., October 17, 1858. His father, Daniel Franklin Southwick, came to Meriden with his family in 1861 and established himself in the shoe business and for many years was one of the more prosperous merchants of Meriden. Frank was given a liberal education by fond and indulgent parents, and early in life showed a musical talent, which was duly encouraged. He became an enthusiastic and promising student of music under such teachers as Theodore Thomas, Otto Singer and George E. Whiting, of New York.

At the age of fifteen he became the organist of the First Baptist church of Meriden, afterwards accepting a similar position at Christ church, Hartford; later at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown, and finally was offered position of organist and musical director at the First Presbyterian church of Englewood, N. J., and ever since accepting that position, he has been connected with churches of New York and vicinity, having presided over the organ at the Church of the Holy Trinity, at St. Andrew's, and at the West End Presbyterian church, all of New York City.

For many years Mr. Southwick has been a teacher of music, and has trained advanced musicians, many of them holding professional positions, in both this city where he resides, and in New York where he has become a prominent figure in the musical world, and has had a studio for the past twenty years. He has won no little fame as a composer of songs and anthems,

and is also a fluent writer on musical subjects, being thoroughly conversant with the work of the different composers, and having traveled abroad in advancing himself in his profession. His semi-annual musicales are looked forward to with much pleasure by mu-

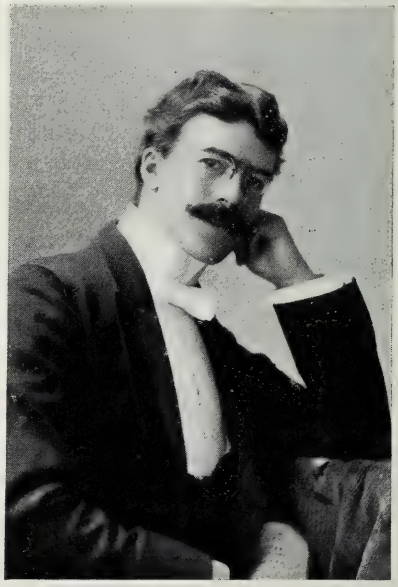


DANIEL F. SOUTHWICK.

sic lovers. He was one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists and one of the organizers of the Manuscript Society, both of New York. He possesses a rare and valuable collection of antique books, which he prizes highly and which he thoroughly appreciates, being a great lover of good literature, but especially those works which the passing of time has made valuable from their rarity.

He was married in New York City to Emma L. Thompson, in 1895, and to them have been born a son, Laurence Francis Conway Camp Southwick.

Daniel Franklin Southwick, father of our subject, was born in Middletown, August 9, 1832, and was descended from Laurence and Cassandra Southwick, English Quakers, who came to this country in 1658, and took refuge at Shelter Island, from which that locality derived its name. Daniel Southwick went to California in 1850 to search for gold, joining the forty-niners, but after his adventure



FRANK T. SOUTHWICK.

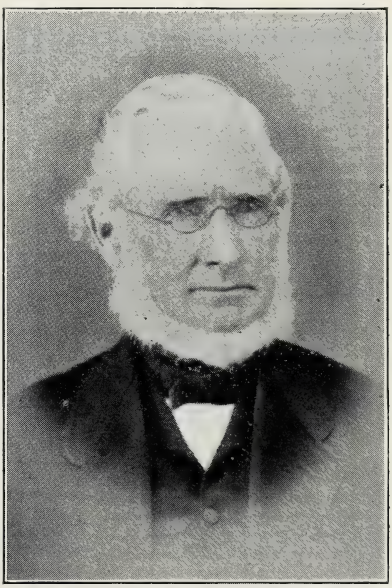
returned to Hartford, and engaged in the shoe business, which he carried on successfully until he came to Meriden as above stated, and opened a store in the Collins block, which he conducted

for several years with pronounced success. He was one of the founders of the Beecher Manufacturing Company, who carried on the manufacture of drop forgings on Center street. Mr. Southwick was enterprising, public-spirited and generous. His wife was Sarah J. Camp, of Middletown, before her marriage, and both were for thirty years members of the First Congregational church, to which and to other worthy objects, Mr. Southwick contributed liberally. He died March 11, 1898, much beloved and respected by his neighbors on Curtis street, where he resided with his family, and also by the citizens of the town.

FENNER BUSH.

Fenner Bush, whose life furnishes an example of a remarkable business career, and who was one of the early manufacturers of Meriden, was born at East Lyme, Conn., June 26, 1791. His father, John Bush, died when he was but six years old, and Fenner Bush, from that age, became self-supporting. He learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner at sixteen, and at twenty-one, after returning from service in the War of 1812, engaged in business, afterwards buying out his former employer, and later buying a house in Saybrook, having previously, in 1816, married Eunice Kirtland, of that town.

Coming to Meriden in 1824, he engaged in the comb manufacturing business with Julius Pratt. Twenty years later their factory was destroyed by fire, and he lost every dollar he had in the world. With characteristic courage he started to rebuild his factory, and with improved machinery, continued with well-earned prosperity. He became one of the largest stockholders in the concern, which not only made a name for him in the business world, but an honorable position in society. The product of his industry in a few years destroyed foreign competition, and in a large measure he was finally responsible in transforming the United States from a country importing combs, to one exporting them in large quantities, and the combs made at his factory finally became used all over the civilized world.



FENNER BUSH.

Mr. Bush was a man of great independence of thought and action. He

was whole-souled and generous almost to a fault, giving liberally to worthy objects. At least three of the churches and five schools were partially built from his means, and he contributed generously to the cause of anti-slavery.

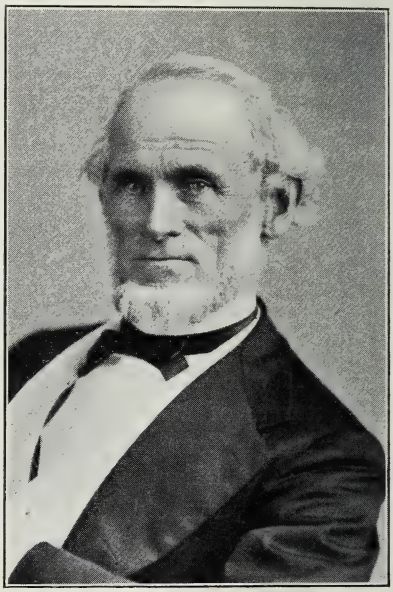
Mr. Bush, although deprived of early schooling, and almost man-grown before he could read or write, finally became a well-read and self-educated man. He served in the State Senate from Meriden in 1848, and at the time of his death possessed a library at his home of 1,500 volumes. From the time when he first moved to Meriden from Saybrook, until the end of his life, he was an earnest and consistent member of the First Congregational church.

Mr. Bush was the fond father of two daughters: Temperance Jennette, who became the wife of Randolph Linsley, a sketch of whom appears following; and Eunice Kirtland, who married Partrick J. Clark.

RANDOLPH LINSLEY.

Randolph Linsley, for whom Randolph and Linsley avenues are named, was born in Meriden November 10, 1809, and died in the brick residence on West Main street hill, which he had built some years previous, on his property, January 22, 1887. With the exception of short periods away his entire life was spent in Meriden. He was one of the sturdy, reliable, God-fearing men of the town, and was possessed of a strong physique and active brain.

In 1835 he married Temperance J., daughter of Fenner Bush, one of the pioneer manufacturers of the town, and before the Civil war he engaged in the manufacture of combs with Walter Webb & Co., whose factory was at South Meriden and at one time acted as their agent in England. After the close of that war he engaged in cotton raising in the south but returned



RANDOLPH LINSLEY.

to Meriden, and on a tract of land comprising about fifteen acres, where he also took up his residence, entered into the florist business.

He did business on a large scale and his plant eventually comprised fourteen or fifteen greenhouses. His flowers were shipped to New York and sold at wholesale, and he also supplied to the Meriden markets, large quanti-

ties of asparagus, lettuce and celery. He owned, too, a number of acres of land farther west in Meriden and through which Hickory street now extends, and was one of the first in Connecticut to engage in peach growing on a large scale. While high spirited and exacting, Mr. Linsley was a man entitled to the respect of his fellow townsmen, and this he held in marked degree. He is remembered by some of the older residents as a man exceedingly fond of music. A constant and loyal member of the First Congregational church, he always occupied a seat near the choir.

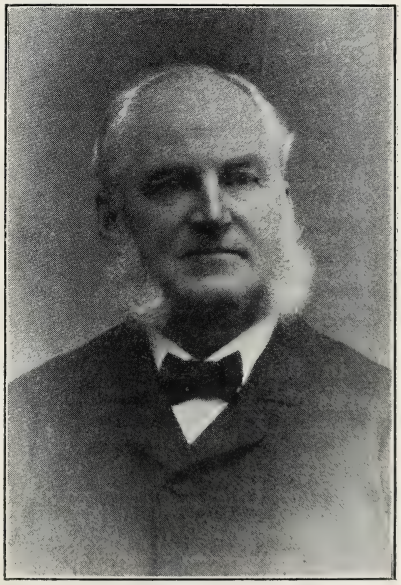
That Mr. Linsley was thoughtful and prudent seems to be proven by the fact that when the city commenced to grow in his direction, he sold land at a good price, until he had gradually disposed of it all. He erected the brick residence in which he died and which is now the parsonage of Trinity M. E. church.

Mr. Linsley was the father of eight children, of whom are now living the following: William B. Linsley, of Escanaba, Mich., superintendent of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad; Thomas Linsley, a lumber merchant of Michigan; Nellie and Jessie Linsley, and Mrs. Sarah L. Allen, of St. Louis, Mo.

EDWARD C. ALLEN.

Edward Chauncey Allen, born in Meriden May 26, 1823, was the third son of Levi and Electa (Hall) Allen, grandson of Archelaus and Prudence (Merriam) Allen, and of Aaron and Elizabeth (Cook) Hall of Wallingford, Conn.

Mr. Allen was a lineal descendant in the sixth generation of Roger Allen, who in 1639 came from England (Kempston, Bedford county), was the first and only treasurer of the colony of New Haven from May 29, 1661, until its union with the colony of Connecticut May 14, 1665, and deacon in the first church in 1669. From Roger Allen the descent is traced through "Sargeant" Samuel Allen, Daniel Allen, Timothy Allen, Archelaus Allen, Levi Allen to Edward Chauncey.



EDWARD C. ALLEN.

Archelaus was a soldier of the Revolution, enlisting at the time of the Lexington alarm, and serving with the

Connecticut troops in the Boston expedition under General Putnam.

Aaron Hall, the maternal grandfather, enlisted in 1777 at the age of sixteen, in Capt. Stephen Hall's company of Col. Heman Swift's Seventh Regiment, "Connecticut Line," and was honorably discharged at the expiration of his term of service in 1780. He served under General Washington in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, Monmouth, etc., wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78, Redding, Conn. 1778-79, took part in the storming of Stony Point and wintered at Morristown Heights 1779-80.

On his return from the war he lived in Wallingford where he occupied an influential position, was a justice of the peace, an arbitrator in controversies and engaged in settling estates until his death in his seventy-ninth year.

Levi Allen was born March 30, 1777, in that part of Wallingford known as North Farms. He removed to Meriden with his parents in 1793, and purchased a homestead (still standing) of Giles Collins, where he died August 27, 1861.

Edward Chauncey received a good public school or academic education and with his first earnings which were obtained by teaching he bought land adjoining his father's farm and built a home. For many years his farm was regarded as one of the model farms of the state, and as an officer of the State Agricultural Society, he took special pride in everything pertaining to progressive farming. Mr. Allen was also prominent in the advancement of the musical interests of the church and community with which he was connected, and was one of the directors of the Worcester Festival Association, which gave the first of those now famous New England musical events.

In July, 1840, he became a member of the First Congregational church in Meriden and in 1857 was chosen a life deacon in that church. He never sought political honors, but was an earnest Republican, doing all in his power to advance the principles that he believed his party represented.

Mr. Allen's first wife was Jerusha Temperance, a daughter of Joseph Platt, of Deep River, Conn, and granddaughter of Captain Daniel Platt, a soldier of the Revolution in the Fourth Regiment of the "Connecticut Line," by whom he had four children, three now surviving, viz.: Captain George W., Caroline J. (now Mrs. A. B. Jennings) and John Platt Allen.

His second wife was Sarah Hillard Linsley, daughter of Randolph Linsley, of Meriden. By this marriage there were two children, Edward Linsley and Emma Jennette (now Mrs. Nelson Moody). Mr. Allen died July 13, 1887.

Captain George W. Allen, his oldest son, enlisted in Captain Bassett's Company, Fifteenth Connecticut Regiment, early in the Civil war and after service in Virginia and the Carolinas was appointed captain in the Twenty-ninth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers and served before Petersburg, Richmond and at Brownsville, Texas.

CLARA LOUISE SANDS.

Clara Louise Sands, who during her useful life, collected more genealogical information concerning American families probably than any other individual in this country, was born in New York City, February 17, 1862. She was the daughter of Jesse and Mary Melvina (Turner) Sands and



CLARA LOUISE SANDS.

was descended from John Wakeman, first treasurer of New Haven colony for twenty years, and one of the original settlers of New Haven in 1639, and many other early and distinguished ancestors. Her mother died when she was but an infant, and she grew to womanhood under the watchful care of a fond and indulgent father, who gave her a liberal education. She possessed many admirable and lovable traits which, although a great physical sufferer, as she became of age, grew more pronounced. Patience, accuracy and serenity were ever exemplified in her character, those admirable qualities necessary to the successful student.

Her work in the research for family genealogy brought her unstinted praise; and having collected the leading books on the subject to aid her, she was encouraged to make this her life work. Gradually she became more familiar with the records of towns, cities and their courts and libraries until her name became famous as an expert and familiar to the librarians and to the public press, to all of which she was a justly celebrated correspondent. Her success as a searcher for genealogical information and compiler of family records was greater than has ever been known. She took a vast pride in this commendable work and her remarkable perseverance was a strong factor in her ultimate accomplishment of every task undertaken. Her work brought her wide repute and she had correspondence not only in every state in the union, but in every country in the world where the English language is spoken and penetrated by American families; and where other genealogists failed her services, methods, patience and perseverance brought the desired results. She was for many years a contributor to the genealogical records of the Boston Transcript, New

York Mail and Express, Hartford Times, Newark News, Connecticut Quarterly and many western publications; and her compilation of genealogical records for individuals brought her the love and esteem of numberless families in this and other countries. She loved this work and took infinite delight in making herself useful to others, and her death, which occurred June 15, 1902, removed from Meriden one of its most lovable Christian characters. In the genealogical collection included in her estate she left an almost priceless heritage, which in January, 1903, her executors presented to the Curtis Public Library as a memorial to her name. After her death the members of her family received from all parts of the country glowing testimonials of the value of her collection, which was conceded by the best authorities the most accurate, clear and rarest compilations in existence. The gift was much appreciated by the trustees of the library, for without doubt the Curtis Public Library of Meriden now contains more material for the research of family records than any other in this country.

The collection comprises the following books and pamphlets:

Vol 1.—Signers of the Mayflower compact and their descendants and other earliest emigrants.

Vol. 2—Boston Transcript genealogical records.

Vol. 3—Mail and Express genealogical records.

Vol. 4—Mail and Express written genealogical records (very rare).

Vol. 5—Transcript and Mail and Express records.

Vol. 6—Family names and where found in genealogies and on records.

Vol. 7.—Genealogies and family histories.

Vol. 8—Connecticut emigrants to other states.

Vol. 9—Hartford Times, Newark News and other publications' genealogical records.

Vol. 10—Connecticut Quarterly Magazine records.

Vol. 11—Connecticut Quarterly Magazine records.

Vol. 12—Connecticut Quarterly Magazine records.

Vol. 13—Old Norwestern Quarterly genealogical records.

Vol. 14—The Owl genealogical records.

Vol. 15—Genealogical records of families, A.

Vol. 16—Genealogical records of families, B.

Vol. 17—Genealogical records of families, C.

Vol. 18—Genealogical records of families, D.

Vol. 19—Genealogical records of families, E.

Vol. 20—Genealogical records of families, F.

Vol. 21—Genealogical records of families, G.

Vol. 22—Genealogical records of families, H.

Vol. 23—Genealogical records of families, I, J, K.

Vol. 24—Genealogical records of families, L.

Vol. 25—Genealogical records of families, M.

Vol. 26—Genealogical records of families, N.

Vol. 27—Genealogical records of families, O.

Vol. 28—Genealogical records of families, P, Q.

Vol. 29—Genealogical records of families, R.

Vol. 30—Genealogical records of families, S.

Vol. 31—Genealogical records of families, T.

Vol. 32—Genealogical records of families, U, V.

Vol. 33—Genealogical records of families, W.

Vol. 34—Genealogical records of families, X, Y, Z.

Vol. 35—Conn. School Journal genealogical records.

Vol. 36—Meigs genealogy and allied families.

Vol. 37—Kent genealogy and allied families.

Vol. 38—Buckingham genealogy and allied families.

Vol. 39—Prince genealogy and allied families.

Vol. 40—Eastman genealogy and allied families.

Vol. 41—Sharon births, deaths and marriages.

Vol. 42—Bodge's Indian wars.

Vol. 43—Palfrey's New England.

Vol. 44—Palfrey's New England.

Vol. 45—History of Fairfield county.

Vol. 46—History of New Haven county.

Vol. 47—History of Danbury.

Vol. 48—History of Rhode Island.

Vol. 49—History of Block Island.

Vol. 50—History of Saratoga.

Vol. 51—History of New Jersey.

Vol. 52—History of Pennsylvania.

Vol. 53—New Jersey Historical collections.

Vol. 54—New York historical collections.

Vol. 55—Massachusetts historical collections.

Vol. 56—Pennsylvania historical collections.

Vol. 57—Genealogical index.

Vol. 58—Middlesex county historical sketches.

Vol. 59—Portfolio of manuscripts of genealogies of families.

The various pamphlets accompanying the collection includes:

Births, deaths and marriages of Hartford, Windsor and Fairfield.

Life of Josiah Meigs.

Lane-Griswold genealogy.

Marvin-Beckwith genealogy.

Names and ages of Connecticut old folks.

Governor Elihu Yale.

Family of John Savage.

Descendants of Stephen Pierson.

Records of Pynchon family.

Chatfield genealogy.

Beckwith notes.

Statistics of Middlesex county.

Founders of Ohio.

Early history of Brattleboro, Vt.

Bristol centennial records.

Westchester historical records.

Glastonbury Centennial records.

Baptisms, marriages and deaths, Congregational church, East Hampton.

Malden, Mass., historical records.

Incidents of Revolution in Westchester county.

Johnson genealogy.

Potter genealogy.

Blakesley genealogy.

Clinton's 200th anniversary records.

Killingworth historical records.

Stanwich Congregational church manual.

History of Piqua, Ohio.

GEORGE AUSTIN FAY.

One of the leading lawyers of the New Haven county bar, and a strong factor in contemporary Meriden life, is the subject of this sketch. Mr. Fay was born in the town of Marlboro, Mass., August 29, 1838, and passed the early years of his life upon the home farm. His education was obtained in the common school and at the high school of his native town where he graduated.

Mr. Fay's parents, George W. and Amanda Ward Fay, were descended from New Englanders whose ancestors were English people. The first American immigrant on the paternal side was born in England about 1648.

When he was twenty-one years of age Geo. Fay left Marlboro and came to Meriden where he has resided ever since. The future lawyer first entered a position where he combined the duties of clerk in the office of the Adams Express Company with that of operator in the Western Union Telegraph service. These positions were resigned two years later when the young man followed the bent of his inclination and entered the Law Department of Yale University, from which he graduated with the degree of LL. B. in 1862. He entered the office of the late Hon. O. H. Platt, where he read law as an assistant, remaining a year; and in May, 1863, he was admitted to the Connecticut bar as an attorney at law, which profession he has followed ever since.

Mr. Fay was elected by the Republicans to the State Senate from the Sixth Senatorial District in 1871 and served as chairman of the Committee on Corporations and also as chairman of the Committee on Elections which determined whether Hon. James E. English, of New Haven, or Hon. Marshall Jewell should be state governor. The contest had been an exciting one and Mr. English was elected; but an investigation was set on foot which resulted in the award of the office to Mr. Jewell.

The heights that influential men reach were not attained by sudden flight, the poet tells us, and the prominence which attaches to Lawyer Fay's name is due to patient perseverance in a work where will and feeling both pull together, thereby concentrating the attention and strengthening mental effort. Mr. Fay's eminence as a lawyer received gratifying acknowledgement when the appointment as counsel for the N. Y., N. H.

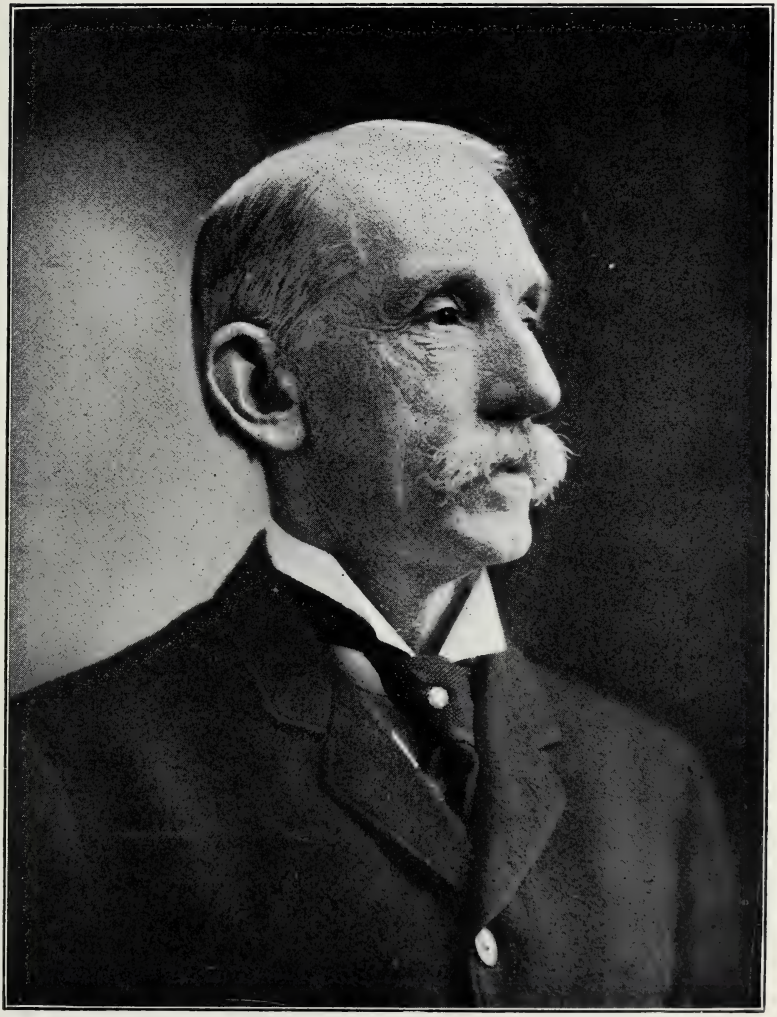
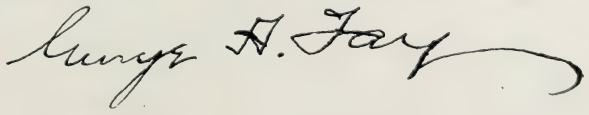


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.



& H. railroad was made, which position he holds up to present writing. He is also counsel for many large corporations including the International Silver Co., First National Bank, Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Co. and several other corporations, and having amassed a comfortable competency now gives but a portion of his time to the practice of his profession.

About 1896 Mr. Fay formed a partnership with Judge W. L. Bennett, a resident of New Haven, and ever since the firm has maintained offices in Meriden and New Haven. In 1905 Mr. Bennett was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas by Governor Roberts. Mr. Fay, who is the oldest member of the bar in Meriden, is a capable advocate of the public weal; he is careful of his constituents' interests and it may be truthfully said that his fearlessness has guided him safely through legal storms where a less intrepid lawyer would have compromised for policy's or expediency's sake.

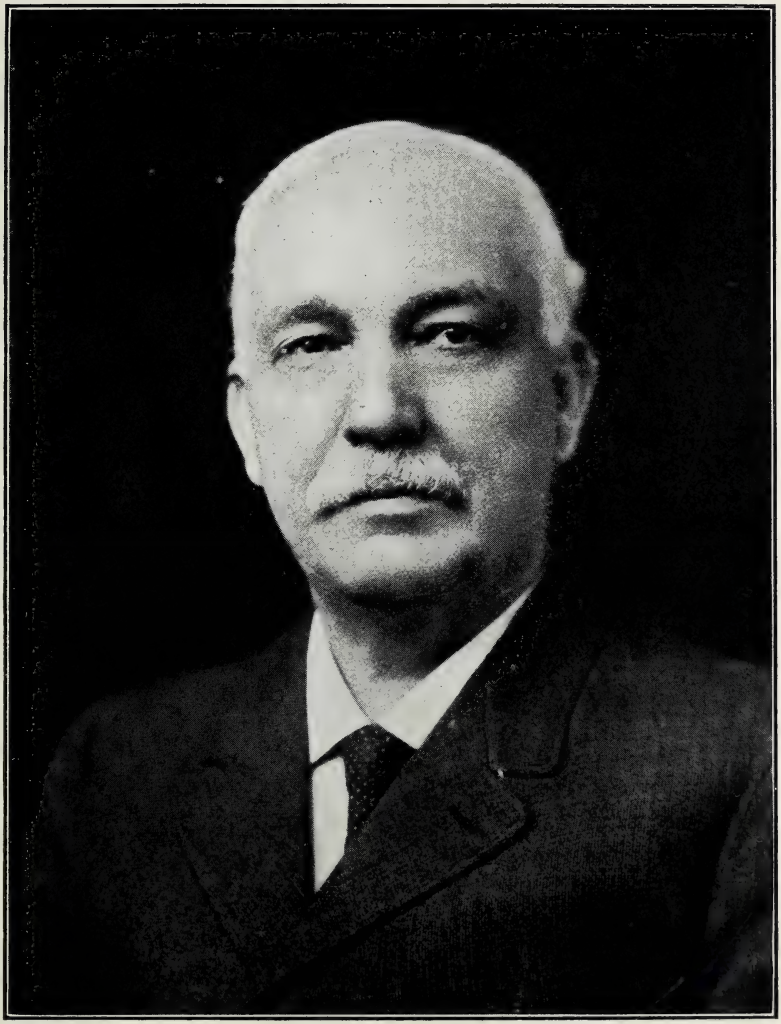
Although Mr. Fay is a member of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Meriden, he is connected with no other organizations.

In 1865 Mr. Fay was married to Miss Jennie M. Curtis, daughter of Alfred P. Curtis, a lady of gentle manners and lovable character

JOHN QUINCY THAYER.

A man of high standing in the legal profession is John Quincy Thayer, chosen judge of the Probate court of Meriden in 1893, and who has held that judiciary office to the present writing. He is a son of Augustine and Electa (Fairchild) Thayer, and although he has resided in Meriden for a third of a century, he was born in New Milford, Conn., March 24, 1843. His father was a man of prominence there and a well-to-do carpenter and builder possessed of a judicial mind which was inherited to the fullest extent by his son.

On the maternal side Judge Thayer is descended through one of the oldest families in Fairfield county, and Thomas Fairchild, the first of his ancestors to come to America from England, settled in Stratford where he became one of the leading men at the time of the first settlement of that town, and who died December 14, 1670. His son, Thomas, was the first white man born in Stratford, and Josiah, son of Thomas, born in Stratford in 1644, was a landowner. Edward Fairchild, son of Josiah, was born in Stratford, but in 1720 removed to Newtown, where the Fairchild family have ever since been prominent in the affairs of that town. James Fairchild, son of Edward, was a landowner and farmer in Newtown, and his eldest son, Silas Fairchild, was born in Newtown in 1748, and died in that town in 1821. Before his death he became a captain and was commissioned by Governor Trumbull. His son, Joseph Fairchild, born August 12, 1770, died June 23, 1855, and by his second wife, Amarillas Dibble of Danbury, their daughter, Electa,



John D. Thayer

the mother of Judge Thayer, was born.

John Quincy Thayer received his preparatory education in the old Housatonic Institute, but his proposed college course was postponed on the breaking out of the Civil war; for he enlisted in Company I, 8th Conn. Vols. Infantry, September 21, 1861, remaining with his regiment until after the close of the war, and receiving an honorable discharge after four years and three months' service, during which he earned an enviable record and participated in a large number of important engagements.

After the close of the war he resumed the study of his chosen profession and became a student in the law office of William Knapp, at New Milford, under whose tutelage he was admitted to the Litchfield county bar in 1869. He first began practice of law in Meriden in the office of the late Hon. O. H. Platt, but three years later became the law partner of Hon. Ratcliffe Hicks, of whom much is said elsewhere in this volume, under the firm name of Hicks & Thayer, a partnership which continued several years. For many years Judge Thayer has held public office. After serving several terms as city attorney, he became associate justice and clerk of the Municipal court of Meriden, which offices he held for thirteen years, until he was chosen to preside over the Probate court, in 1893, where he has since performed the complicated duties of the office, with a fairness of decision to all, that has won him the gratitude of the community, during his long and efficient encumbency of that office.

Judge Thayer is a member of the Home Club, Colonial Club, Royal Arcanum and of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has served as judge advocate of the Department of Connecticut in the last named organization. He was married January 19, 1873, to Annie S., daughter of S. K. Devereux, collector of customs at Castine, Maine, and has had one child, Zerline Devereux, who was born in Meriden May 29, 1880, and died December 9, 1884.

WILBUR FISK DAVIS.

Judge Wilbur Fisk Davis, who was born July 25, 1848, in Plymouth, Connecticut, comes of an illustrious ancestry, the Davis family having been very well known not only in Meriden, but all over New England. His first American ancestor, Dolor Davis, was one of the original settlers of Barnstable, Mass., in 1634.

His father was Dr. Timothy Fisher Davis. His mother was Miss Moriva Hatch, of Springfield, Mass., and she still survives her husband, making her home with her children in Meriden. Judge Davis is a brother of Dr. Charles H. S. Davis, a leading physician and ex-mayor of the city.

Judge Davis received his education in the public schools and the academy at Meriden, and then, having chosen the law as his profession, began to

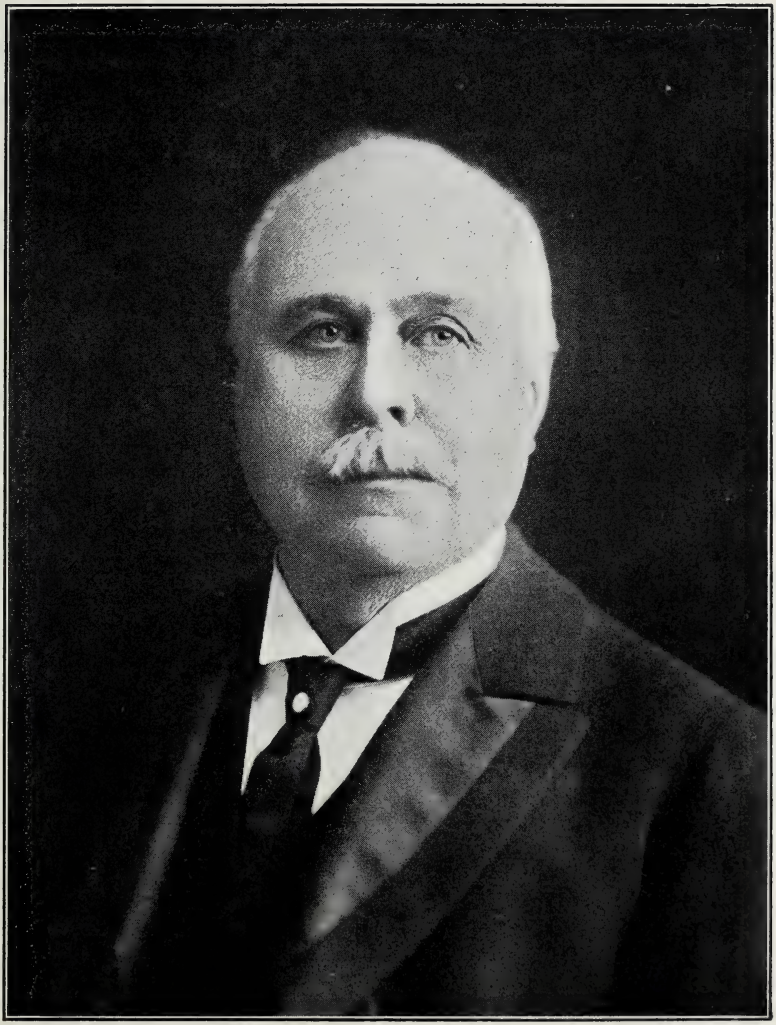


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Wilbur F. Davis

study in the office of Judge Smith. In 1869 he entered the Yale Law School, where he remained for one year. At this time occurred the death of Judge Dutton, head of the Yale Law School, and Mr. Davis, not wishing to remain in New Haven without his tutelage, entered the Harvard Law School, where he graduated in 1870. In September of that same year he was admitted to the New Haven County Bar, and at once entered upon the practice of his profession in Meriden. His success was assured from the first; and he has long been conceded to be one of Meriden's most successful lawyers. His ability soon brought him an official position, that of clerk of the Meriden City Court, which position he held for several years. In 1887 he was appointed corporation counsel and very successfully upheld the civil rights of the city until 1890. He was then elected judge of probate for the district of Meriden and ably filled that office until 1895. He was again appointed corporation counsel in 1897, which office he held for a further term of two years.

Judge Davis has acted as adviser to many prominent business men and corporations, and his excellent judgment, sound practical sense, and wide experience have enabled him to be of great service in that capacity. He also has been counsel in many important cases, his connection with which has gained for him throughout the state a high reputation as a lawyer. He has ever had the best interest of town and city at heart, and his presence in town meeting is usually made manifest by earnest approval or equally hearty condemnation of the matters brought before that body. Judge Davis is fearless in advocating what he believes to be right, and he does not allow the mere fact that a measure is popular to weigh against his own judgment.

Besides being a successful lawyer Judge Davis has an enviable position in the life of the city. In December, 1905, he was tendered the Republican nomination for corporation counsel by a vote of 19 to 1, it being the first time in the history of the city a nomination of this character had been given to a political opponent. While the matter was still pending in the common council Judge Davis declined the nomination, giving his reasons in a letter which occasioned much favorable comment at the time. He is prominent socially, having been president of the Home Club, the leading social organization of the city, and is active in Masonic circles, being a past commander of St. Elmo Commandery, No. 9, K. T., of Meriden. In politics Judge Davis is a Democrat, and his party has on many occasions sought his counsel, which, like his advice in business matters, has been characterized by a certain hard-headed common sense that has made it valuable.

Judge Davis was married May 29, 1874, to Miss Adelaide Louise Stevens, daughter of Joshua and Jane (Morris) Stevens, of Chicopee Falls, Mass. Of five children born to them only two are now living, Wilbur F.

Jr., a graduate of the Meriden High school where he won a "Hicks' Prize" writing upon a "Century of Life in Meriden," now a student at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and Robert S., a youth in the public schools.

Judge Davis has a beautiful home on East Main street, and he and Mrs. Davis have proved themselves possessed of genuine hospitality.

FRANK S. FAY.

Frank S. Fay, judge of the Meriden Police and City courts, one of the best known members of the legal fraternity in Meriden, was born at Marlboro, Mass., on September 26, 1848. His services on the bench have ever been in the direction of justice and impartiality and at the same time he has been ready to help the unfortunates whose cases have come before him.

He received his education in the high school of his native town. After being graduated from that institution he came to Meriden to study law in the office of his brother, Hon. George A. Fay.

He was admitted to the bar in September, 1871. In his profession Mr. Fay has met with deserved success. As a citizen he is held in respect by all. The interests of the city and town have always been very dear to him and by his word and example he has done much for both.

He has held positions of honor and responsibility and has in every instance proved himself worthy of the trust imposed upon him. From 1882 to 1893 he served as prosecuting agent for New Haven county. Later as city attorney he made a record as a vigilant and conscientious public servant. In 1891 he was town site commissioner in the Territory of Oklahoma, deciding land titles for the city of Oklahoma.

When Judge James P. Platt became United States district judge, Mr. Fay succeeded him as judge of the City and Police courts of Meriden, receiving his appointment from Governor McLean in March, 1902. Judge Fay has taken an interest in his duties that has made his services of great value to the community. He has never forgotten that the prisoners who face him are men and women and oftentimes has felt it incumbent upon him to give them a few words of advice and admonition.

Judge Fay was chosen one of the members of the committee having in charge the erection of a new building to take the place of the Meriden Town Hall, which was burned in February, 1903. He has devoted much time and thought to the arduous work of the committee and has in this matter worked for what he conceived to be the best interests of his fellow townsmen.

Judge Fay is an enthusiastic fisherman and yearly pays a visit to the trout streams of Vermont or other states.

Judge Fay was married on September 28, 1881, at Stuyvesant, N. Y., to



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

Frank S. Fay

Elizabeth B., daughter of Allen J. and Martha (Cutter) Ham. His home is a most pleasant one and the friends who have been privileged to enter it have ever met with a cordiality that was both earnest and sincere.

WILLIAM CARL MUELLER.

Wlliam Carl Mueller, a well known member of the New Haven County

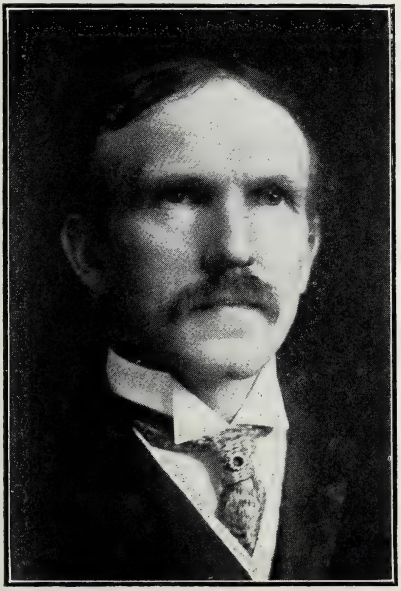


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM C. MUELLER.

Bar, who has been favored by both election and appointment to several positions of honor and trust, was born in Germany, April 27, 1864. When quite young his family removed to this country, and settled in Meriden in 1874. After receiving a good education, he pursued legal studies at the Yale Law School, from which he graduated in the class of 1886, and was admitted to the bar at New Haven, June 30 the same year and ever since has been engaged in the practice of his profession in Meriden. He was admitted to practice in the district and circuit court of the United States in March, 1903.

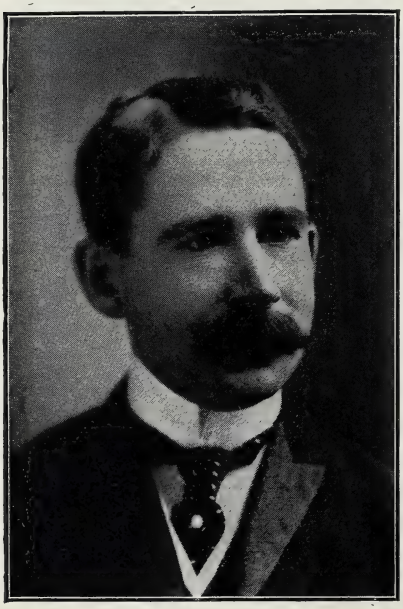
He held the office of city tax collector for four years, from 1888-1893 inclusive and was collector of town taxes for six years, during which time he collected over $1,000,000. He has also served as city attorney for the city and police court of Meriden, which duties he first assumed July 1, 1893. He served as superintendent of the water works for four years from February, 1898. As well as being one of the professional men of the town of high standing, he is prominently identified with several German societies; is a member of the Home Club and the various branches of the Masonic fraternity. He is now devoting his entire time to the practice of law, in which he has been successful.

He was married in June, 1895, to Agnes, daughter of August Yost, a prominent citizen of Meriden, and they have one child, Carl Howard Mueller.

HENRY T. KING.

One of the Board of Park Commissioners of Meriden, a well known member of the New Haven county bar, and a citizen of the more progres-

sive type, is Henry T. King. He was born in Meriden, being the son of P. J. and E. M. King, and received his early education in the public schools of Meriden, and by spending six years afterwards at the electrotyping trade, accumulated sufficient money to pay his own way through Yale Law school.



HENRY T. KING.

He began the study of law, however, under the late Judge George W. Smith, but after the death of that well known attorney, entered the office of Judge Wilbur F. Davis, where he continued to receive valuable coaching during his attendance at the law school. He was graduated with the class of 1892, and among his high honors received there was the O. S. Seymour prize of $60.00, for the greatest improvement in scholarship.

Admitted to the bar in 1892, he began the practice of his profession in his native city. Mr. King has become successful in his chosen profession, due to his own commendable effort in fitting himself for his life work.

Some years ago he served as one of the reportorial staff of the Meriden Republican; was clerk of the Probate court for the district of Meriden for six years, and prepared the index of the probate records; was for two years clerk of the City and Police court; has served the first ward as alderman, when he became chairman of the Committees on By-laws, Printing and Police, and was a member and secretary of the first board of public works. During his service in the city government, he took a firm stand against the establishment of the various commissions, and was chairman of the council committee that appeared before the legislature in opposition to that measure. He later drafted the amendment to the city charter, whereby the legislature empowered the city of Meriden to add Hubbard Park to its territory, and presented the act passed by the city government which gave Hubbard Park its name. He was honored by appointment to the Board of Park Commissioners in February, 1906, for a term of four years, the choice of Mayor Thomas L. Reilly meeting with the hearty approval of the public in general.

Attorney King served five years in the state militia as a member of Com-

pany I, C. N. G., and later was elected second lieutenant, but on account of pressure of business, declined the honor.

He was one of the founders and the secretary of the Connecticut Federation of Cyclists; one of the incorporators of the Meriden Wheel club; the author of a most comprehensive booklet containing the bicycle laws of Connecticut, with full explanatory notes; all of which have made him one of the best known wheelmen of the state. Mr. King is a member of the Home Club, and well known in social circles. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, being affiliated with Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and all the higher branches of the order in Meriden, New Haven and Bridgeport. He is also a member of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine.

For many years he was actively connected with the State Agricultural Society. He is a member of St. Paul's Universalist church, of which society he has been clerk, assistant superintendent of the Sunday school, and was the first secretary of the Connecticut Y. P. C. U. During the elaborate preparations made by the committee of citizens for the centennial celebration of the town, Mr. King rendered invaluable service as secretary of the Committee on Publicity and the success of the historic celebration is due in no small measure to his zealous work for that committee.

He was married November 28, 1894, to Josephine, daughter of the late Joseph Morse.

GEORGE L. KING.

George L. King, prosecuting agent for New Haven county at Meriden, and a well known attorney and counselor-at-law, is a native of this town, being the son of P. J. and E. M. King. After receiving an early education in the public schools of Meriden, he spent a number of years in the business of



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

GEORGE L. KING.

wood engraving, of which he became a thorough master, and during that time he made numerous illustrations for leading magazines published in New York and Boston. He afterwards engaged in business in Meriden as a member of the firm of Foster & King. By his skill as an engraver, the practice of strict economy and persever-

ance, he accumulated sufficient money to study for his profession and pay his own way through Yale Law School.

While at that institution he won the unstinted praise of his instructors by his success in his studies, which he carried on after having vanquished more obstacles than would have discouraged the young man of ordinary ambition. He was graduated at the law school with the class of 1895, and being admitted to the bar the same year, began the practice of his profession in his native city, where he has since continued.

In 1898 he was appointed to his present office, prosecuting agent for New Haven county at Meriden, and his fearless conduct of that office has met with success and general approval by the people of the county.

Mr. King is a Mason, being a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and is also a member of Meriden Lodge, 35, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a well known figure in social circles, being a member of both the Home and Colonial Clubs, and an ex-president of the Meriden Cycle Club. He is a member of St. Paul's Universalist church. Unlike his brother, Attorney H. T. King, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere, and who is a Democrat, he is actively connected with Republican politics and a prominent worker in the ranks of that party. He is clerk of the Probate court for the District of Meriden, and has also served as assistant clerk of the City and Police court of Meriden, and enjoys the reputation of having dispatched the duties of the offices to which he has been honored with efficiency and without the display of either fear or favor.

He was married in May, 1896, to Ada F., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Wright, of Norwood, Mass.

P. T. O'BRIEN.

Patrick T. O'Brien, attorney at law, of Meriden, was born at New Britain, November 16, 1868. He is of Irish descent and one of nine sons of John M. and Mary (Corbett) O'Brien, who came to this country from Ireland and settled in New Britain in 1855 where the family has ever since resided. Their son received a good education. He first attended the public schools of his native town. In 1885 he entered St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Md., where he took three years of his academic course. He completed his classical studies at Holy Cross college, Worcester, Mass., from which he was graduated in the class of 1891. After teaching school one year at Taneytown, Md., he accepted a professorship in Greek, Latin and English at Epiphany college, Baltimore, where he was one of the faculty for two years. At the end of that time he began to study for the legal profession and after taking a two years' course at the New York Law school, New York City, received the degree of LL. B. That he might be still better prepared

for practice he entered the law office of Judge William F. Henney, who in 1905 was mayor of Hartford, where he read law for one year. Mr. O'Brien was admitted to the bar in June, 1898, at which time he came to Meriden, opened an office and has practiced here since. He is faithful to his clients, fair to his opponents, honest to the court.

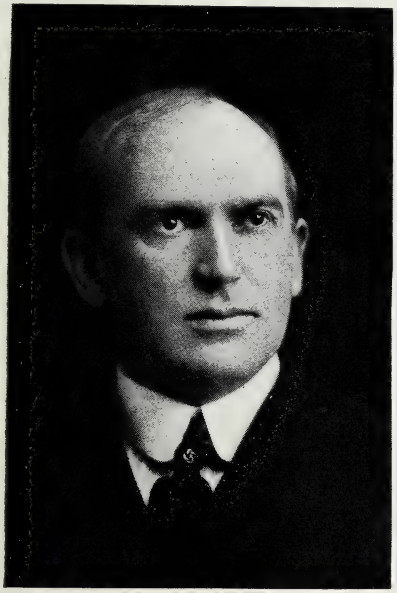


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
PATRICK T. O'BRIEN.

Outside the court room he has a cheerful disposition which makes him a favorite with his brother practitioners. He is a member of the Elks, Catholic Benevolent Legion, T. A. B. society, Amaranth Club and Division 2, Ancient Order of Hibernians. He has taken part in the Centennial celebration of the Town of Meriden, having served as a member of the Committee on Licenses and Privileges. He is unmarried.

A. B. AUBREY.

Alfred Bailey Aubrey, attorney at law, is one of the younger men of the town who has won a measure of success and owes the same to his own efforts. He was born in Meriden April 20, 1878, and has always lived here. He attended the local public schools, took a four years' course at the High school in three years and graduated with honors with the class of 1897. During his attendance at the public schools he won a gold watch at the grammar and a Hicks prize at the High school, all of which reflected much credit upon him; as he lost much time from his studies on account of illness. During his attendance at the High school he was editor of the High School Pennant and, during his last year, of the class Annual.

He began the study of law in the office of Henry Dryhurst, but shortly after entered the Law school of Yale University, from which he was graduated in June, 1901. The same month he passed the bar examinations and, being admitted to practice, opened a law office in the Hall & Lewis building. As a practitioner, he has been successful almost from the start and now has a large and rapidly increasing business.

He has been much honored by election to public office. In 1901 he was

chosen a member of the Common Council from the fourth ward, serving two years; was, in 1902, elected registrar of voters and now serves his fourth term in that capacity; has been chairman of the Republican City committee since 1902; is assistant clerk of the Meriden City and Police Courts, and is one of the trial justices of the town.

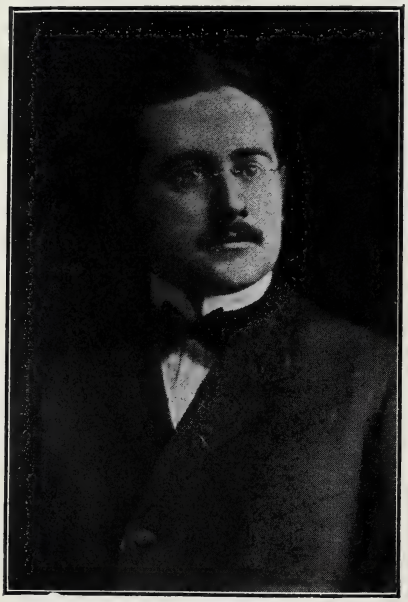


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
ALFRED B. AUBREY.

He is a prominent member of Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum, having filled all the offices within the gift of that council and is now past regent and representative to the Grand Council of Connecticut. He is also a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M., and is a charter member of the Arcanum Club, now the Colonial Club.

He is also prominent in local military circles, being commissioned a second lieutenant of Company L, Second Infantry, C. N. G., of which company he was one of the organizers. He is a member of and the attorney for the Meriden Business Men's Association, and stands well as a member of the New Haven county bar. He is popular among the citizens of the town, the best interests of which he never tires in promoting.

JAMES T. KAY.

James Thomas Kay was born in Princeton, N. J., June 21, 1848, and is of Scotch descent. His father was a prominent sea captain, the owner of several coasting vessels and also extensively engaged in the lumber business and a builder who removed with his family to Charles City county, near Richmond, Va., in the early '50s. His son accompanied him frequently on his coasting vessels and inherited a love for the water which has clung to him to the present time.

James T. Kay learned the trade of a plumber in 1866, in New York City where he worked as a journeyman until 1871. Coming to Meriden at the latter date, he went to work for Alexander Duncan, Meriden's pioneer plumber, but the following year he engaged in business for himself, in a small way, with gradually increasing

success. At the present day he is possessed of one of the larger plumbing establishments of the state and employs a large number of men, and, having been established for thirty-four years, now does business on a large scale. His store on State street is 100 feet deep and in the rear is a well equipped workshop containing every labor-saving device.

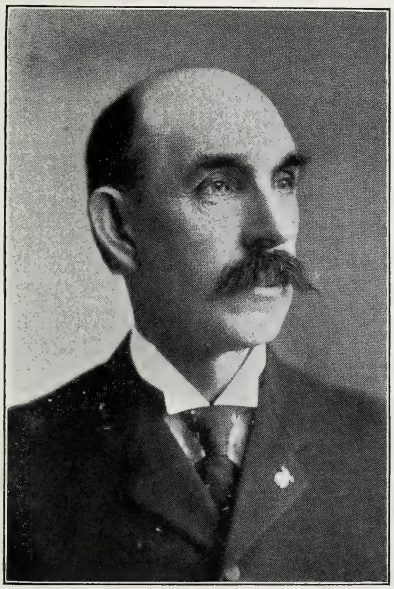


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
JAMES T. KAY.

Mr. Kay is well and favorably known in business circles and is active in fraternal life. He is also a valued member and treasurer of the Main Street Baptist church; one of the two remaining charter members of Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum; was the first named in the charter of the original Columbia Council, O. U. A. M., in which he passed through the various chairs; a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and the other Masonic bodies of Meriden, including St. Elmo Commandery, K. T.; he is also a member of Pacific Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Home Club; the Meriden Business Men's Association; served five years in Company I, C. N. G., from which he retired a corporal in 1878; a member of the New England Order of Protection and one of the directors of the Meriden Permanent B. & L. Association. He is also a member of the Middletown Yacht Club, has a summer cottage at Branford and sails a comfortable and speedy naphtha launch.

He was married in 1876 to Mary A. Goodrich, of Southport, Conn., widow of the late George W. Goodrich, who served in the Civil war, to which union have been born Eva, who married Phineas T. Ives, of Meriden, and Frank E., associated with his father in business. Other members of his household have been, George A. Goodrich, stepson, who died in February, 1903, and his widow and children, Ralph S. and Helen E. Goodrich, who continue to reside in the home of Mr. Kay.

I. B. HYATT.

Isaac Beach Hyatt, chief of the Meriden Fire Department, who has served almost continuously in that

capacity since 1879, is a native of Norwalk. He is a son of Roswell and Elizabeth (Curtis) Hyatt. He comes of good old New England stock through both lines of descent and was born February 2, 1848. He was educated in the public schools of his native town, and enlisted for service in the Civil War, in Co. A, 17th Conn. Vols. Infantry, in January, 1864, and after seeing active service, was honorably discharged when peace was declared, July, 1865.



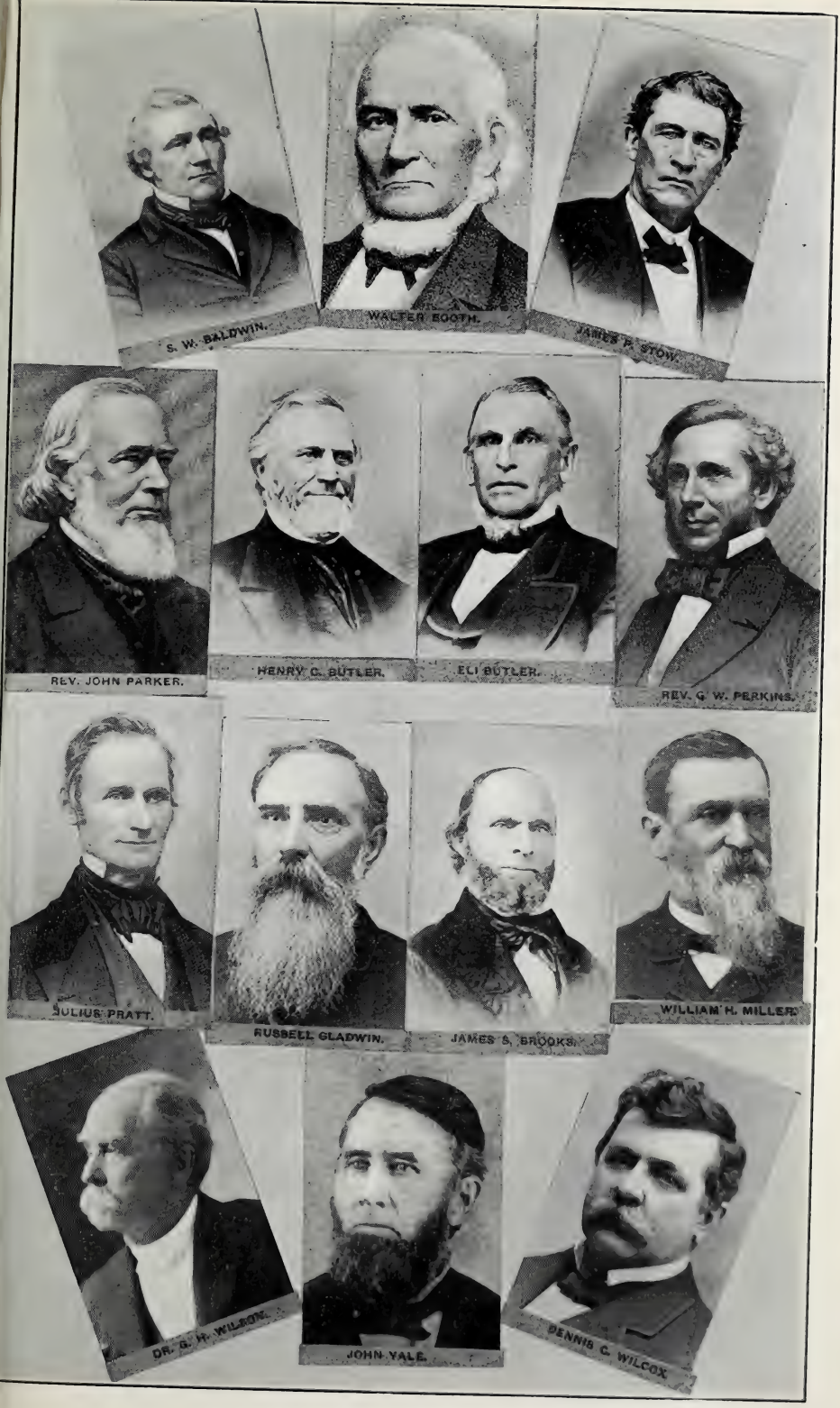
Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

I. B. HYATT.

He came to Meriden in 1867 and began business life by learning the trade of a britannia worker at the factory of Parker & Casper, now occupied by Manning, Bowman & Co. He became a member of the firm of Little, Somers & Hyatt in 1883, which concern became incorporated in January, 1904, and of which he has since been secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Hyatt's record at the head of the local fire department is most creditable and his service has been conducive to the best interests of the town. His long experience as a fire fighter has made him well known throughout the state. He also holds an honorable position in the Connecticut State Firemen's Association of which he has served as president two terms. He is also a member of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs' club. His knowledge of the buildings of Meriden, especially those where the greatest danger of fire exists, is most comprehensive. The precautions against fire as urged by him to citizens and the members of the department, which he has so well organized, have done much to lower Meriden's loss from fire. During the many years that he has been chief, much new apparatus has been purchased and the department has been brought to a high standard of efficiency, the protection against fire being as secure in Meriden as in any other city in the state.

Socially Mr. Hyatt is widely popular, especially in the Grand Army where he has been frequently honored with high offices, from commander of Merriam Post of Meriden to department commander of the



GROUP OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF MERIDEN.

state. As a business man and public-spirited resident he stands high in the community, a position he has achieved by an honorable business career, interest in local affairs, and good fellowship. He has for many years been a member and has also served as president of the Meriden Business Men's Association. He is affiliated with Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., the Home Club and the Colonial Club. He has bee twice married,first to Annie E. Chalmer, died Nov. 15, 1874, and to that union two children were born, who died in infancy; second to Jennie M. Bishop, of Meriden, daughter of Charles E., and Emily Bishop, July 5, 1877, and to that union six children have been born as follows: Blanche May, Roswell Bishop, Willard Curtis, Helen Elizabeth, Isaac Robert and Allen Rufus.

WILLIAM H. MILLER.

William H. Miller, postmaster of Meriden from 1886 to 1890, was born at Rumapoy Works, Rockland Co., N. Y., April 29, 1822 and died at Meriden, October 16, 1904. He attended private school until he was sixteen years old when he entered the works of the Colt's Patent Firearms Co., Paterson, N. J., to learn the trade of a gunmaker and continued until 1841 when he became employed by the Ames Mfg. Co., in the manufacture of the Jencks breech loading carbine. Two years later he went to Mill Creek, Pa., in Nipps Armory and made muskets for the government, later going to Cincinnati to make tools and start up the rifle factory of John Griffith who had a contract with the government to make 5,000 rifles; and in 1845 he went to Chicopee, Mass., to work on pin machinery. The following fall he entered the Springfield Armory to work on tools for a new carbine, in the summer of 1846 being engaged by Col. Samuel Colt, at Whitneyville, this county, later going with him to Hartford, Conn., as a contractor of lock works for pistols. With Joshua Stevens he made an improvement in revolving pistols which they had patented; and in 1849 they formed the Massachusetts Arms Co., at Chicopee Falls, Mass., and engaged in the manufacture of these pistols in which Mr. Miller continued until 1862 when he was engaged to become superintendent of the gun factory in Meriden of Parker, Snow, Brooks & Co. In 1864 and 1865 he made several inventions and improvements in firearms, including that of the celebrated Parker shotgun and afterwads with his brother, George W. Miller, present first selectman of Meriden, invented a cartridge extractor afterwards used in the Springfield musket.

In 1868, in company with his brother, he engaged in the manufacture of pocket cutlery which in 1870 became the Miller Bros. Cutlery Co., in which he continued until 1885.

He was married in February, 1850, to Jane A. Havens, of Hartford, Conn., and to that marriage the fol-

lowing children were born: Ida Louise and Arthur Howard.

He is survived by both widow and children, all residents of Meriden.

F. D. RAPELYE.

Frederick Dewey Rapelye, Meriden agent of the Adams Express Co., was born in New Britain, May 6, 1858.

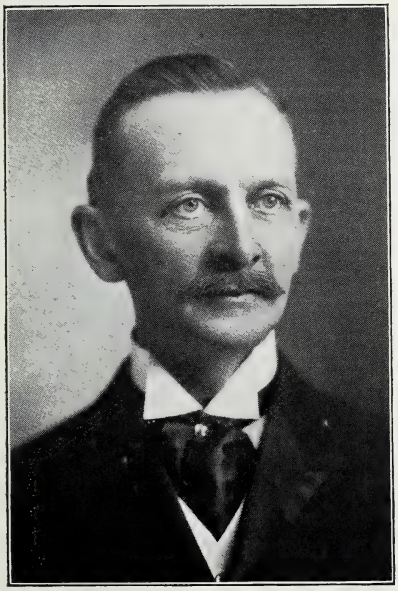


Photo by Akers & Pigeon

F. D. RAPELYE.

He is the son of Andrew and Antoinette Rapelye and his parents are still living in New Britain. He is of French descent on his father's side, but his mother is of the old Hart family of Connecticut. He was educated in the public schools of New Britain and concluded his schooling at Prof. Camp's private seminary.

He entered the employ of the company, in which he now holds a most important position, in 1879, after having worked a short time in a well-known factory of New Britain. By careful attention to his duties as a driver at the company's office in New Britain, in 1892 he received the appointment as messenger with headquarters at the company's office at Hartford, afterwards filling various important positions until 1891, when he was transferred to the Meriden office to succeed I. E. Beach as way bill clerk. His conscientious work in this capacity won him promotion to the position of cashier in which he succeeded William H. Morgan, who retired from the office on account of ill health. Upon the death of Charles N. Winslow, whose decease is recorded elsewhere in this book, Mr. Rapelye was appointed agent, January 2, 1905.

Mr. Rapelye is a thorough business man whose long experience in the express service has been of benefit to the numerous patrons of the large corporation whose local interests he superintends. He is a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M., and was married November 5, 1891, to Lucy Fellows, of Rhinebeck, N. Y. He attends the Main Street Baptist church and is a valued adopted citizen of Meriden.

H. C. BIBEAU.

Henry C. Bibeau, commissioner of public works and one of the more en-

terprising merchants of Meriden, has resided in this town nearly all his life. His parents moved here when he was but three years of age; and he was educated in the local public schools, graduating from the Center school in 1881. Mr. Bibeau, like most young men, first tried other callings than that which he was most fitted to carry on before he struck his sphere in life.

After leaving school he began business as an apprentice at Parker Bros. gun shop, but his inclination for the activity of mercantile life prompted him, in 1882, to enter the exceedingly well patronized grocery store at 17 Colony street, known as the Boston Grocery and then conducted under the name of C. N. Dutton & Co., but which was first established in 1832. Some years later he accepted the position offered him as traveling salesman by the Chapman Mfg. Co., who conducted a busy factory in the manufacture of saddlery hardware. Mr. Bibeau was a decided success as a traveling man and his services were highly appreciated by that concern.

At the end of three years he bought a half interest in the store where he had formerly worked as a clerk, and in 1902 bought out the remaining interests and became the sole proprietor. During the past few years and under his guidance the business of the establishment has largely increased. At first but one-half of the store was opened to customers, the balance being used for storage purposes, but since Mr. Bibeau secured his present storehouse in the rear of the branch store at the corner of Cook avenue and Hanover street, the entire floor of the Colony street store has been utilized for attending to the wants of customers.

Other important additions to the business have been that of a baking department and a kitchen for which purposes two stores on Railroad avenue were added to the quarters occupied. At the present day Mr. Bibeau has a large trade among the leading families of Meriden in groceries. On his attractive counters are also found delectable bakings, cooked meats, puddings, etc., while a well ordered lunch counter is also supplied from cooking done on the premises. He also does a large catering business in which he enjoys an enviable reputation.

In 1902 he established a branch store at the corner of Cook avenue and Hanover street, which he still carries on successfully. Mr. Bibeau has shown a special ability as a business man and stands well in the community, where he is known as an enterprising and public spirited resident.

He is a member of Pilgrims' Harbor Council, Royal Arcanum; one of the directors of the Meriden Board of Trade, and a member of the Meriden Business Men's Association, Meriden Butchers & Grocers' Association and also the Colonial Club. In February, 1906, he was appointed by Mayor Thos. L. Reilly, a member of the Board of Public Works for four years, and is one of the commissioners of the city. He has shown not only competency, but a heartfelt interest in city



Photo by Akers & Pigeon



affairs of which he now assists in the management.

JULIUS AUGUR.

Julius Augur, a reputable merchant and one of the fire commissioners of Meriden, was born in Southington, February 26, 1846. He

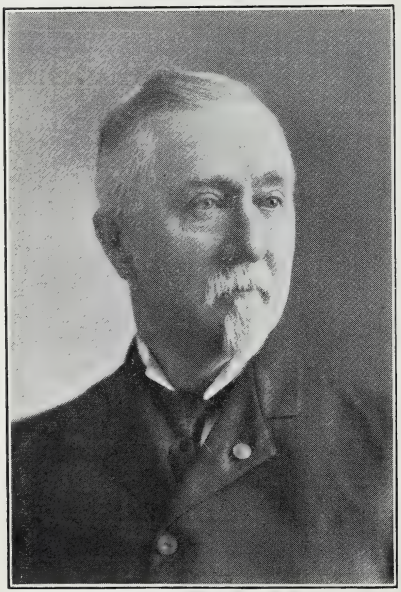


Photo by Akers & Pigeon
JULIUS AUGUR.

is a son of Julius Smith Augur, born in New Haven, February 7, 1813, and Lavinia D., daughter of Noah and Fannie (Bishop) Merriam, who was born in Meriden November 8, 1815, where she died in 1894. His maternal grandfather was Noah Merriam, a descendant of one of the earliest settlers in this locality, and who lived in what in later years became known as the Goodwill homestead, which stood on the site of the present edifice of St. Joseph's Church.

When quite young Julius Augur was brought to Meriden by his parents, but his family afterwards removed to Durham where he resided for seventeen years. At the age of sixteen, and on August 8, 1862, he enlisted for the Civil War in Company A, 15th Conn. Vols. While guarding commissary stores at Long Bridge, Arlington Heights, he was taken sick and sent to the hospital and after his recovery discharged from service, February, 1863. He reenlisted in Company C, 7th Regiment, Conn. Vols., then at St. Helena, serving until the close of the war, July 20, 1865, and after his return from that service he served five years in the state militia, as a member of the Wadsworth Guards of Durham in which he held the office of sergeant.

He came to Meriden in 1867 and became a clerk in the meat market of S. C. Paddock, seven years later engaging in the provision business on his own account as a member of the firm of Augur & Gardner, and for many years conducted a successful business on Main street. This partnership was dissolved in 1896 when Mr. Augur received an appointment as street commissioner, the duties of which he dispatched for two years thereafter. In 1898

he again engaged in the grocery and provision business at 23 and 25 Lewis avenue, which well patronized store he has ever since conducted with increasing success.

Mr. Augur has a somewhat extensive public career. He was elected a member of the board of aldermen in 1893, and as such served four years. In 1896 he was appointed street commissioner for two years, as stated previously, and during the administration of Mayor Seeley, was appointed a member of the board of fire commissioners for four years, as a member of which board he now serves. Mr. Augur has been a member of Merriam Post, 8, G. A. R., since 1871, and in this he has served as junior vice and senior vice commander and also commander. He has also served the post as quartermaster for fifteen years.

He was married Jan. 22, 1873 to Nettie Eliza Smith, born at Northfield, March 31, 1850, and daughter of David Smith and Fidelia A. Parker. To that marriage three children were born as follows: Julius Smith, February 2, 1881, now preparing at seminary for Y. M. C. A. work; Agnes Fidelia, born May 2, 1882; and Frank Miller Augur, born December 2, 1883, and who is associated in business with his father.

F. M. KIBBE.

Frank Marvin Kibbe, druggist of Meriden, and one of the energetic and responsible citizens of the town was born in Hampden, Mass., then South Wilbraham, April 28, 1866. He is a direct lineal descendant of John or Edward Kibbe, one of the first English settlers in Connecticut, and one or the other was the first white child born in the town of Enfield, and which town afterwards became largely populated by the different branches of the Kibbe family. When the subject of this sketch was six years old his father moved to Enfield, where he obtained his early education at the Kibbe School, also at Suffield and East Windsor.

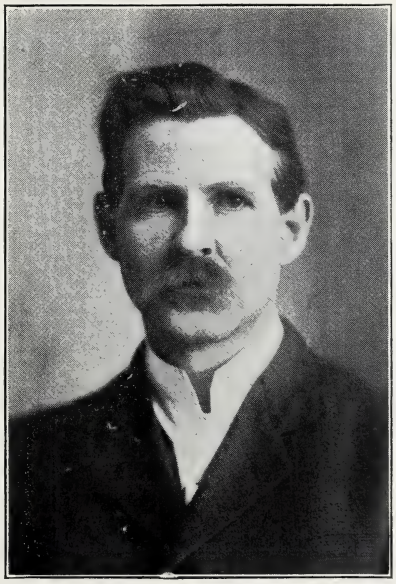


Photo by Akers & Pigeon
FRANK M. KIBBE.

After acquiring a good education

Mr. Kibbe entered the drug business, in May, 1884, at first as an apprentice in the drug store of Wessells & Gates at Litchfield. He later, having finished his apprenticeship at Shannon's drug store, passed his examination at the capitol, Hartford, December 6, 1887, as a registered pharmacist. He began his creditable career as a licensed druggist as a clerk in the store of A. W. Sawtelle & Co., at Hartford, afterwards becoming associated with the drug store of George A. McCorkle, leaving the latter firm to engage in business for himself in Meriden, which he accomplished by purchasing the drug store of F. W. Smith Drug Co., at 40 West Main street, and of which business he became the proprietor November 7, 1891. There he remained and conducted a steadily increasing business, gaining the justly merited confidence of the public and medical profession, until May 28, 1898, when he was enabled to remove to the present drug store which he conducts under the name of F. M. Kibbe & Co., at 85 West Main street. The store is one of the finest of its line in Meriden or vicinity, and a large business is there transacted, not only in drugs and medicines but in photographic supplies and souvenir postal cards. Owing to the increase in business, Mr. Kibbe found it necessary in 1906 to enlarge the floor space of the store, which had just been completed. Mr. Kibbe is known as one of the most trustworthy business men of the town, and stands high in the business life of Meriden. While he confines himself closely to business he is a member of several fraternal organizations. In the Masonic fraternity, he is connected with Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M. He is a member of Connecticut Lodge 93, I. O. O. F., of Hartford; Columbia Council 5, O. U. A. M.; Meriden Camp 77, Modern Woodmen of America; and Alpha Lodge, 4341, Knights of Honor.

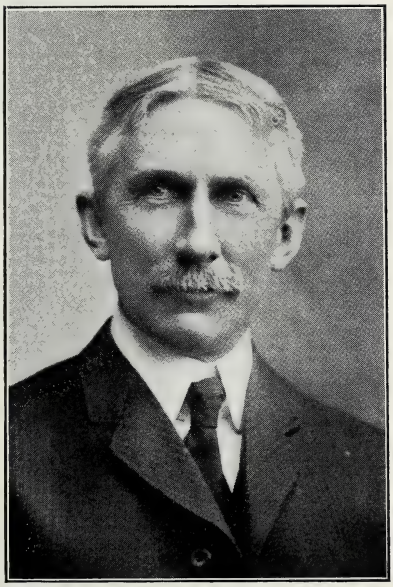
He married, Oct. 2, 1895, Annie E. Webb of Meriden.

WILBUR H. SQUIRE.

The analysis of American character is, of course, more difficult than that of English, although Matthew Arnold finds it hard enough to distinguish between the Saxon and Norman elements in the blood of his countrymen. Once in a while, however, it is possible to discover even in America, distinct traces of Teutonic or Roman or Celtic ancestry. The subject of this sketch, for instance, shows a remarkable inheritance from the Norman; which should include, according to Arnold, a broadness of intellect and power of organization, mingled with a certain love of the unusual. Such a type serves as a leaven for the great mass of our more slow-blooded, plodding, Saxon component.

Wilbur Henry Squire is the oldest

son of the late William L. Squire, for many years treasurer of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad Company; he spent his earliest years in Hartford, and graduated from the high school there in the class of 1876. Immediately afterward he came to Meriden and entered the insurance agency of H. C. Butler & Co. After Mr. Butler's death he assumed charge of the business, which has since been conducted under the names of W. H. Squire & Co. and The W. H. Squire Company. At present it embraces a money-order, brokerage and steamship agency, in addition to the original fire underwriting.



W. H. SQUIRE.

Mr. Squire's wide interests and enterprise will perhaps best be shown by a brief enumeration of the organizations of which he is an active, and in many cases a charter, member. He has been treasurer, and is now chairman of the pew rental committee of the First Congregational church. He is a director of the Meriden Business Men's Association, vice-president of the Colonial Club, a charter member of the Home Club, a trustee of the Y. M. C. A., a director of the First Meriden Building and Loan Association, auditor of the City Mission, a member of the Meriden Golf club, a charter member of A. H. Hall Council and the Grand Council, Royal Arcanum, a member of the Maccabees, the Woodmen, and other fraternal orders, and has been water tax collector, and city tax collector for periods of two years. He also has many business and social connections outside the city limits. Among other things he is vice-president of the Fire Insurance Agents' Association of Connecticut, a veteran member of the L. A. W., a member of the Veteran Corps, Co. K, First Regiment, C. N. G. He was among the original backers of the Meriden public library movement, and of the New Haven cycle path extension. And finally, he is one of the three leading citizens of the West Peak "colony" —a position of importance which none can appreciate who have not spent a night with him there.

JOHN. F. BUTLER.

A man whose service to the town was ever exerted in the interest of

good government and citizenship was John F. Butler. He resided in Meriden from early boyhood and at the time of his death, Dec. 29, 1905, was one of the valued residents and best known merchants and property owners. He was born in Kilkenny, Ireland in 1841 and, coming to this country when he was quite young, went to live in the family of the late W. W. Lyman, his education being secured in the local public schools. On the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted in the navy and during his long and creditable service, kept a diary which contains an interesting story, well told, of his experience on board battleships in action. After the close of the war he engaged with Bela Carter in the painting and decorating business and with him he remained for several years, gaining a thorough knowledge of the business. Later he formed the partnership of Butler & Larkin, their place of business being in the Hicks building on Colony street. After Mr. Larkin's death he moved into the Wilcox block where he continued his business and in 1892 organized a joint stock company taking a number of his employes into the corporation, which through his able management has become one of the largest in its line in this section of the state. With a progressive spirit always characteristic of him, Mr. Butler in connection with the Meriden Furniture Co., in 1894, built the handsome block on Colony street which the John F. Butler Company now occupy. A man of high aims, his success in business was the result of untiring efforts and honorable business methods. Besides the large decorating business of which he was the head he became possessed of much real estate.

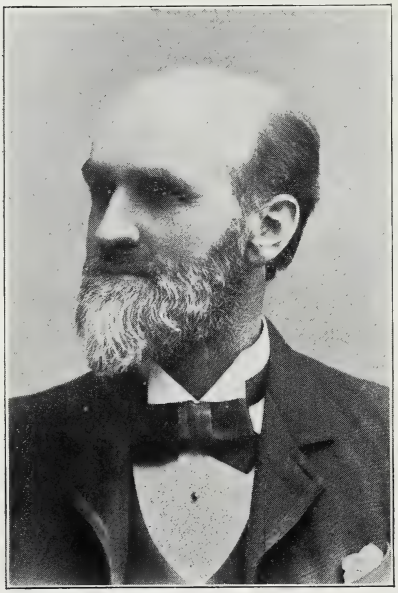


Photo by Akers & Pigeon

JOHN F. BUTLER.

When St. Joseph's parish was set apart from St. Rose's Parish he was a prominent member. He took active interest in the new parish and served upon the building committee. While he never sought public office, his good citizenship prompted him in early life to join the volunteer fire department and in later

years he was honored by being made chief of the Meriden fire department.

He was one of the organizers of the Amaranth and Catholic clubs and also instrumental in forming Washington Council, K. of C., having been the first G. K. He was possessed of a kind heart, charitable disposition and the faculty of making and holding a large circle of friends. He was married to Catherine M. Neary of Naugatuck in 1885, who died in 1891. His second wife was Mary F. Conlon of Berlin and their two children, William Ormonde, and Faith Marion, survive him. His funeral, held at St. Joseph's Church, Jan. 1, 1906, was largely attended by men prominent in public and business life and also by many whose lives Mr. Butler had made brighter by acts of kindness and wisely distributed charity.

H. E. BUSHNELL.

Henry E. Bushnell, a leading merchant engaged in the grocery, bottled goods and baking business in Meriden for the past twenty-two years, and who conducts a large double store of two stories at 75 and 79 West Main street, is a native of Westbrook, Conn., where he was born March 28, 1855. He is a son of E. L. Bushnell and Lydia O. Bushnell and he comes from a well known Connecticut family. From boyhood he has been associated with the grocery business and his marked success in Meriden has come from a small beginning, but wholly deserved.

It was in 1884 that he began business on his own account, after having served for some years as a clerk, and had established a reputation for industry, economy and personal popularity. It was in a small portion of his present large establishment and with one clerk and one team, his career as a merchant began; his honest methods and his disposition to give his customers the best goods at the lowest prices have assured his success from the start. With his increased trade, his quarters have become gradually enlarged and greatly improved.

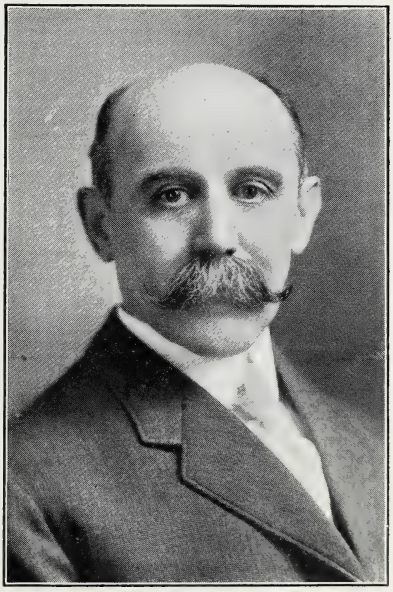


Photo by Akers & Pigeon

H. E. BUSHNELL.

He afterwards bought the block which he now occupies largely and

later erected a large storehouse adjoining the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. tracks, in which he has conducted a wholesale business. Mr. Bushnell has never spared money or expense in making his business establishment attractive, and in 1900 doubled the size of his store, by cutting through to the adjoining store, No. 75 West Main street, and fitting it up as befitted a first-class grocery store, the goods of which are suitable for the highest class of trade. The store is now 100 feet deep, by 50 feet in width, and contains a large stock of fancy and staple groceries, bottled wines, and liquors; and a large baking business has been done by him for the past decade, the baking being done on the premises. The bottled goods department has been carried on by Mr. Bushnell for the past three years, since which time he has supplied his trade with the best of goods of the kind. His store is the largest and most commodious in its line within a radius of many



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

BUSHNELL BUILDING.

miles, a large order business is done, and numerous delivery teams are kept constantly busy, calling for and delivering orders among the first families of the town and adjacent territory.

Mr. Bushnell has learned the wants of a discriminating patronage and his goods may always be relied upon as the best the market affords. He has a natural aptitude and is a careful buyer and one who keeps well posted in the interests of a large trade which he controls. He is a man of strong personality and his courteous attention to patrons is reflected in marked degree by the large number of clerks he employs. Mr. Bushnell is one of the merchants of the town who can always be counted upon to show a bona fide interest in the locality where he resides and does business. He is a member of the Meriden Board of Trade and Business Men's Association and is enrolled in the membership of the various Masonic bodies of the town, including St. Elmo Commandery, K. T. He is also a member of the Royal Arcanum, Elks, and the Home and Colonial Clubs of Meriden.

He was 2 married in 1880 to Lizzie Ray, daughter of B. P. and Mary A. Ray, and they have one child.

C. F. FOX.

Christian Frederick Fox, a resident of good repute and well qualified for the conduct of successful business, enjoys the distinction of being the first individual in the history of the town to achieve success in the manufacture of bologna, frankfurt and German sausages. He was born in Koenigsbrunn, Germany, December 14, 1861 where his father, Frederick was a manufacturer of lumber. When he was fourteen years old his parents removed with him to New York City where he began to learn the business of sausage making. Eight years later he removed to Worcester where he remained until 1885 and then having married, he removed to Norwich, Conn., where he engaged in business in his present line as a member of the firm of Fox & Weigert.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon

C. F. FOX.

In 1888 the firm established a

store in Meriden, Mr. Fox becoming the resident partner but he afterwards bought out Mr. Weigert's interest here and has since conducted the business alone. In the conduct of this large and prosperous business he has been ably assisted by his wife and son, and he has made a somewhat remarkable business rec-

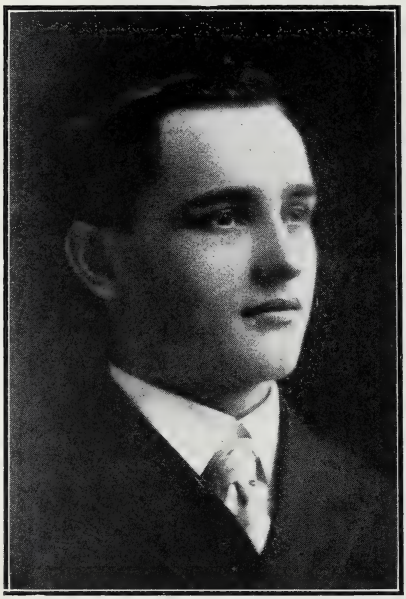


Photo by Akers & Pigeon

ANDREW F. FOX.

ord. By fair dealing and the manufacture of pure goods in the delicatessen line to which he has always devoted his efforts he has built up a trade covering a large territory.

In 1905 he erected at the corner of West Main and Butler streets where he now resides, an imposing business block which building bears his name. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., Keystone Chapter 27, R. A. M., St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T., and Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine; also of Court Schiller, 117, A. O. F. and several other social and fraternal societies.

He was married December 24, 1883 to Emma R. Dason of Worcester and they have one living son, Andrew F. Fox, associated with his father in business, and who married Maude Graham of Meriden.

EDWARD TREDENNICK.

Edward Tredennick, merchant tailor and one of the more favorably known young business men of Meriden, was born in Cheshire, January 19, 1870. He is one of a family of twelve children, nine of whom at this writing are living, and a son of Nicholas and Elizabeth Ann (Hall) Tredennick. His parents, sturdy, industrious, English people, came to Connecticut about 1869, from Halifax, Canada, where they had emigrated some years previous.

During his early days, Edward Tredennick lived in Cheshire; but when he was fourteen, the family came to Meriden and have ever since been identified with this town. He, therefore, concluded his education in Meriden. After leaving school he learned the trade of a garment cutter, and when he was twenty-one years old, in 1891, he engaged in business for himself, and has continued successfully from the start, achieving a high

reputation in his business. During the past seven years he has occupied quarters in the Byxbee block, Colony street, and his customers include many of the leading citizens of Meriden and vicinity.



Photo by Akers & Pigeon
EDWARD TREDENNICK.

Mr. Tredennick is well known in social circles, being a member of the Home Club, Meriden Golf Club and Meriden Wheel Club; and in fraternal circles is a popular member of the Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum. During the preparations for the Centennial celebration, he has served as a member of the committee of citizens as chairman of the sub-committee of golf, of which game he is an authority.

He was married May 5, 1896, to Helvitia, daughter of the late Peter and Edith (Coe) Lucchini, and resides at the Coe Castle.

WILLIAM WALLACE LEE.

William Wallace Lee was born in Barkhamsted, Connecticut, July 20, 1828. He came to Meriden in 1862 and was employed as a machinist by Edward Miller & Co. continuously until his death on September 14, 1903.

Mr. Lee was actively identified with

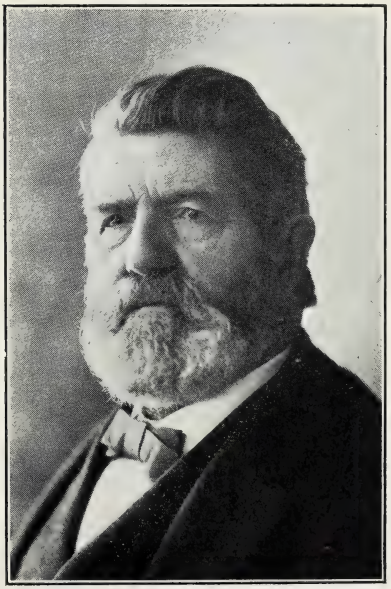


Photo by Akers & Pigeon
WILLIAM WALLACE LEE.

the public and fraternal affairs of the city during the twoscore of years that he was a resident of Meriden. He held various public offices; was alderman from the Fifth ward for four years and a representative to the Gen-

eral Assembly in 1885 and 1886.

Mr. Lee became a member of the Sons of Temperance at the age of eighteen, held nearly every office in the order and was a member of the national organization for thirty-five years. He held the office of grand master of Odd Fellows in 1877 and 1878. Mr. Lee was made a Mason in 1852 and was knighted in St. Elmo Commandery in Meriden in 1874; was grand master of Connecticut in 1874 and 1875; was one of the organizers of the Masonic Veteran association of the state and its president for twenty-five years.

Mr. Lee devoted a vast amount of time to genealogical matters, was one of the principal compilers and editors of the John Lee genealogy published in 1897, and its supplement a few years later; also organizer and treasurer of the Lee Association.

Mr. Lee is survived by a widow, Mary J. (Carrington) Lee, and a daughter, Mrs. Edwin E. Smith, of this city.

SIG. BERNSTEIN.

Sigmund Bernstein, one of the best known citizens of Meriden, and proprietor of a large clothing establishment, was born in the town of Lissa, Prussia, July 31, 1849, a son of Jacob and Jennette.

Having long possessed a desire to see the New World, he left his family and friends in 1864, finally locating at Haverstraw, N. Y., where he accepted a position in the clothing store of Jacob Baum, and in 1871 was taken into partnership. Mr. Baum being engaged in the manufacture of brick, Mr. Bernstein was left in charge of the store. In September, 1877, Mr. Bernstein came to Meriden and purchased the establishment of Morris Levy. Enlarging the business, he now operates one of the largest clothing and custom tailoring houses in New England. Mr. Bernstein is one of the most liberal men in every respect, and believes in conducting his business on broad methods. He has given away thousands of dollars as prizes in guessing contests, and other ingenious ways of advertising. One scheme was a "button guessing" contest with a valuable prize awarded to the one who guessed the correct number. To give the scheme proper eclat he gave a banquet at one of the leading hotels to which 125 leading citizens were invited, including Mayor E. J. Doolittle, the common council, all the town and city officials and a number of state dignitaries. Practically all invited responded. The buttons were counted at the banquet by the mayor and the council members.

Mr. Bernstein was one of the first clothiers to organize mackintosh clubs. The unique method he took to conduct the scheme gave him wide newspaper publication without great expenditure. The first paving stone laid in Meriden was pre-

sented by him to Mayor Ives and put down on Main Street opposite the Journal office, engraved with his name and date. When the electric road was opened Mr. Bernstein gave the first trolley ride between Meriden and Wallingford to the newsboys and another to the clerks of the stores.

In 1897 Mr. Bernstein purchased

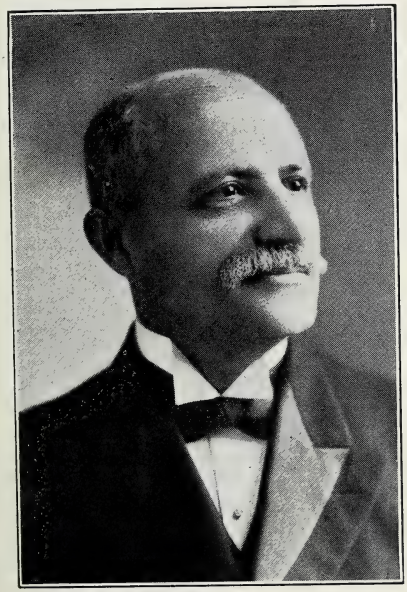


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
SIGMUND BERNSTEIN.

a tract of thirty-five acres, then known as the Holcomb place. He laid out the streets and turned the waste tract into a beautiful residence district. Judge Levi Coe, who was then mayor, suggested for it the name of Bernstein Heights which was accepted. Mr. Bernstein has given away twenty lots of that property and has constructed several handsome residences these fitted with all modern conveniences. A reservoir with a capacity of 1,500-000 gallons has been built. He with August Schmelzer, also purchased a tract of land at Kensington Heights. and they have built several handsome residences in that locality.

Mr. Bernstein has traveled widely both in this country and abroad. In 1891 he and Mrs. Bernstein spent the summer in England, France and Germany. He again made a European trip in 1897, bringing his aged mother to this country with him. This incident illustrates one of his characteristics. He was the oldest of six children and when he left home in the fatherland at the age of sixteen years he promised his mother he would make places across the Atlantic for his brothers and sisters and for his parents as well. This pledge, like every one he has since made, he kept. From time to time he has found an opening for one brother after another and brought them to this country with his earnings. In 1897 he was preparing to bring his aged parents across the sea when he was informed of the death of his father. In twelve days he was in the ancestral home in Germany, arranging to bring his mother to this country and thus fulfil the pledge of his youth.

On October 27, 1878, in New York he was married to Jen-

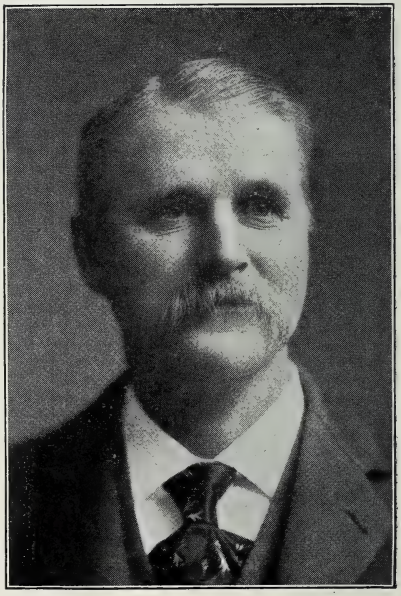
nie Baum, who was born in Seymour, Conn., a daughter of Jacob Baum, senior member of the firm of Baum & Bernstein, and to that marriage these children have been born: Algernon J., Louisa, Daisy, Melville, Frances and Jacqueline.

MICHAEL KEATING.

Michael Keating, grocer, real estate owner and a former alderman of Meriden, and who has been a good citizen of the town since 1875, was born April 1, 1849, at New End, Tipperary, Ireland. His parents, Richard and Alice Keating, conducted a farm and their son did chores about the home and obtained his education in the district school.

At seventeen, after immigrating to this country, he went to South Windham to learn his trade, that of a machinist. He afterwards was employed at the works of the Colt's Repeating Arms Co., and later in Pratt & Whitney's at Hartford, but finally came to Meriden and entered Parker Bros. Gun Shop, where he remained for a period of three years. At the end of that time he began an honorable business career, by engaging in the retail shoe business in a store located in the Meriden House block, and where as a member of the firm of Keating & Hurley, he conducted a prosperous business in that line..

In 1889 he erected a brick business block at the corner of West Main street and Windsor avenue, and upon its completion removed thereto, occupying the upper floor, one-half of the first floor and basement for a store and engaging in the grocery business. The building of his present block in what was then a sparsely settled district was considered by many a hazardous undertaking, but in later years the town



MICHAEL KEATING.

grew largely west and it has been proven that Mr. Keating's foresight was keen.

During his twenty-seven years in the grocery business in his present location, he has built up a profitable business and has always had a fine hold on the confidence of the public

as a result of honorable business dealings. Gradually he has invested in real estate, and has erected many dwellings in the vicinity of his store, especially on Windsor avenue, all of which have been houses possessing modern conveniences and add to the appearance of the locality. Some of these have been rented by him and others sold.

He was elected in 1881 a member of the board of aldermen and served for two years in the city government Mr. Keating is a member of Meriden Lodge, 35, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, and Genoa Council, Knights of Columbus.

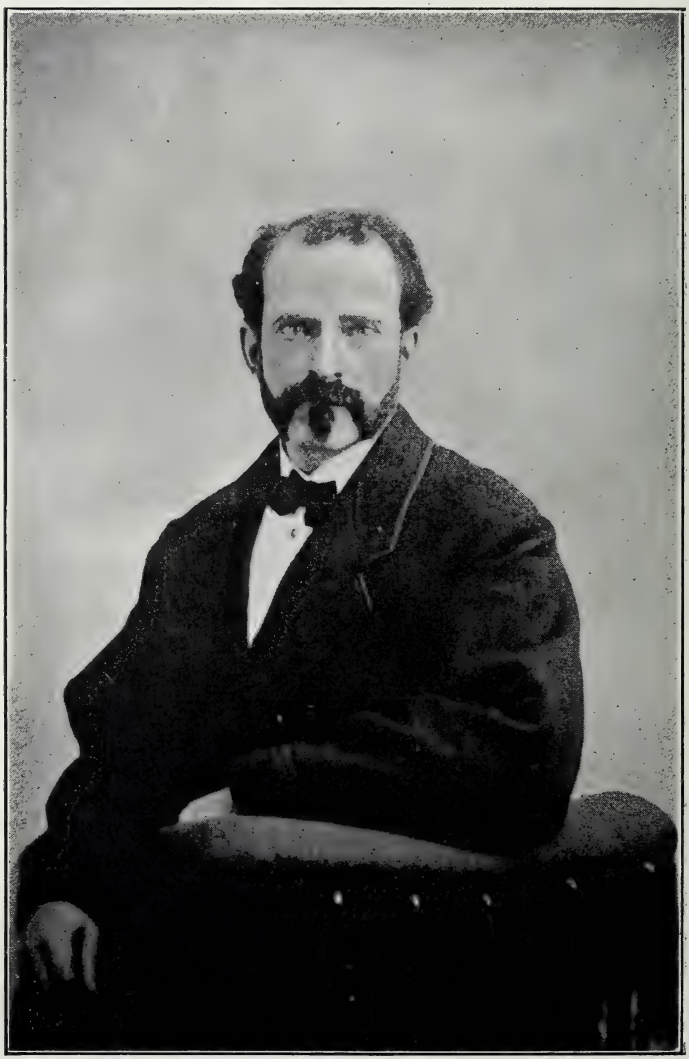
He is married to Annie, daughter of Patrick Malloy and they have had two daughters, Alice and Annie, aged seventeen and thirteen respectively.

MYRON S. WHITE.

The oldest family in New England is that of White. William White was one of the Mayflower party and his son the first white child born in New England. He was called Peregrine, a name signifying, "A pilgrim in a strange land." William White died in the first winter. His sons, Peregrine and Resolved, lived to be important members of the colony. The cradle of Peregrine is now in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth.

Myron S. White, son of Nathaniel White and Eliza Peck, both of Norfolk, Conn., was born Aug. 12, 1824, of lineal descent from Peregrine. He departed this life at the Borough of Brooklyn, New York City, August 3, 1905. At the time of his death he was a member of St. John's Methodist Church in Brooklyn. He learned his trade with the Russell & Erwin Foundry Co., and became foreman for Emory Parker at Meriden. Called to New York, he took charge of the large business of Mackrill & Richardson, with whom he was connected for seven years. He constructed the iron work and placed it in position for the first subway under Broadway, extending from Astor House to Chambers street, which was an index finger pointing to the present system. As junior member of the iron foundry of Demorest & White, he laid the foundations for a successful business career. Upon retiring from business connected with iron foundries, he next became associated as New York agent with the cutlery house of Landers, Frary & Clark, with whom he remained continuously twenty-seven years. Prior to 1860 Mr. White was favorably known in business circles in Meriden and yearly visits to his old home kept him interested in Meriden affairs. In 1859 he married Caroline Beckley, of Beckley Quarter, Berlin, the youngest daughter of Solomon Beckley and Lucretia Evans, who now survives him.

Mr. White possessed a rare executive ability, which contributed to his business success. He had a charming personality. Meriden was ever dear to him, his early home and where he began his business career. His last re-



MYRON S. WHITE.

quest was to sleep in Walnut Grove cemetery amid the hills he loved so well.

WILLIAM WOODLEY.

William Woodley, a leading florist of this city, was born December 31, 1852, in Ecchingswell, Hampshire, England.

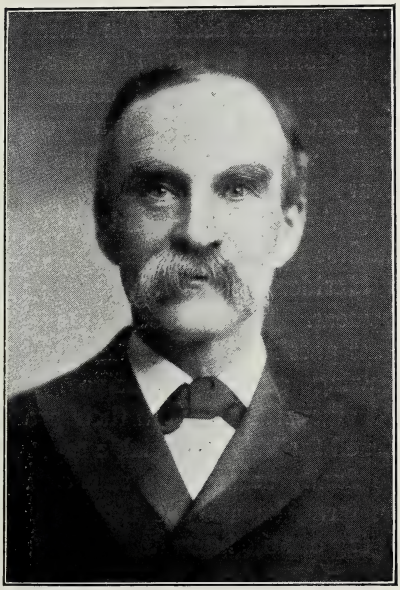


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM WOODLEY.

His boyhood after he was nine years of age, furnishes a story where hard work was a factor. His father died when he was four and his education in the public schools of Hampshire was limited to a very brief period. At a time when most children are being tenderly guarded and care is unknown, the little fellow was struggling with his small, to him, big, problem of existence. At the age of eleven he was employed in the garden of Squire William Kingsmill, whose wife was a daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Four years later he was engaged as assistant gardener by Squire Arbuthnot, a position he retained until he was seventeen.

Meantime wonderful accounts of the rise and progress of poor boys in the United States reached his ears. In that far away country where all men are created free and equal the youth reared a castle in the air for himself, but he had no money for the passage. He did have a friend, however, who was willing to provide the necessary funds.

Landing in New York in 1871 he soon made his way to Meriden. His own struggles had strengthened that moral regard for a financial obligation and within a year he managed to save enough to repay his loan. In 1872 he became Isaac C. Lewis' gardener and held that position twenty-one years. In 1893 he purchased his present property, corner Broad and Silver streets, where he has engaged in floriculture ever since.

Mr. Woodley married Eliza A. Davey, a native of Devonshire, England, but at the time of marriage residing in Torrington, Conn. Their two daughters are Emma Louise, assistant librarian in the Curtis Memorial Library, and Harriet L., who married Erwin M. Beebe, in the fall of 1905. He is a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M., a leading member

of Pilgrims' Harbor Council, 543, Royal Arcanum. He is one of the three who organized Court Silver City, 7060, A. O. F., and is a charter member of Court Meriden, 42. Mr. Woodley's success in floriculture convinces one of the verity that where a man's inclinations and heart are there will be his best work. The part that he has long played in the life of Meriden has made him a leader in his particular line.

THE COE FARM.

With its famous history, hospitality and excellence of garden, orchard and dairy products, the Coe Farm is pre-eminently one of the most celebrated and valuable agricultural properties in Connecticut. The farm is situated just beyond the city limits in the Hanover district and reached by a ten minute ride in the street cars. The farm comprises 300 acres, formerly owned by the late Andrew J. Coe, and 125 acres leased of the Wm. L. Bradley estate adjoining, and the soil has ever been kept in a high state of cultivation. The beauties of landscape make it a delightful spot to be visited, and its close proximity to the business center provides a most convenient source of supply to the local markets.

The farm once owned by the late Ebenezer Peck, a retired sea captain, and later by Captain Cowles, was purchased by Calvin Coe in 1821. He married and took up his residence there in the old homestead now occupied by Victor Lucchini, the present manager and part owner of the property.

The late Calvin Coe carried on the farm for over forty years and improved the land which now shows the good results of his toil. He erected a factory on the land and operated for many years an extensive bone grinding business and opened extensive quarries there, in all of which he was assisted in later years by his sons. In 1861 he retired from agricultural work and continued in the bone business. That year the farm was taken by his sons, Henry and Winfield R. Coe, and in 1863 their brother, Andrew J. Coe, the first judge of the municipal court of Meriden, joined them in its management. Judge Coe, seeing the great possibility of the land for fruit growing, planted extensive orchards and vineyards which in their products earned for him an enviable reputation. He finally became the sole owner of the farm, he and his brother Henry buying out the interests of Winfield R. in 1870, and Andrew J. the remaining interest of Henry in 1873.

In 1867 the building of "Coe Castle" was begun by the Coe brothers and after seven years was completed. The building is constructed wholly of stone and wood from the farm land and comprises one of the largest and most remarkably well built and comfortable dwellings in this vicinity. During the construction of the "Castle" among the artisans employed by Judge Coe, in the interior decoration



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

MORSE & COOK BLOCK.

of the structure, was the late Peter Lucchini, who married Edith, sister of Judge Andrew Coe, and to whom were born the following children: John R., Victor E., Marie, Arthur C., now deceased, and Paul. For some years previous to the death of Judge Andrew J. Coe, Mr. Lucchini conducted the farm and until a sad accident deprived his family of a husband and father. Upon the decease of Judge Coe his wife, Kate Foote Coe, the well known writer, who by his will was to enjoy the income of the property during her life, assumed the management of the farm but at the expiration of two years she turned the affairs of the farm over to the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Co., until March 1, 1901, when she sold her interests in the entire property to the present owners and since then the farm has been under the management of Victor Lucchini.

Under his regime the farm has been kept up to the high standard of excellence it has ever held and many improvements have been made in and about the farm. The large and varied product, always received fresh every day, is much appreciated by residents of Meriden and brings a high price in market owing to the reputation the farm has always maintained for supplying only the best of fruit and vegetables.



COE CASTLE.

JULIUS KUNTZE.

Julius Kuntze, cigar manufacturer, wholesale and retail tobacconist of Meriden, was born in Wansen, Prussian Silesia, February 14, 1858. He is the son of Carl and Theresa (Weiss) Kuntze, both natives of the town where Julius was born. His father was engaged all his life in the manufacture of cigars at Wansen and his children are now all deceased excepting Julius



Julius Kuntze

of Meriden and Herman who carries on business at the old stand of his father.

After receiving a good education in his native town, Julius Kuntze learned his trade in his father's factory and after his father's death, with his brother Herman, conducted the business for his mother. He came to this country in 1881, sailing from Hamburg and first located in New York where he remained for six years and did a profitable business as a cigar maker. He afterwards located in New Haven where he remained for five years, after which he returned to his home in Germany and spent several months.

It was in 1893 that he came to Meriden and established his present business which has since grown to a large enterprise, his factory being the largest for the manufacture of cigars in this city or vicinity. Mr. Kuntze has also built up a large wholesale business in his line and supplies the local dealers within a radius of several miles of Meriden. His honorable dealings and progressive ideas and kindly and accommodating disposition have built up his trade to its present proportions.

He was married in 1891 at New Haven to Elizabeth Schwab, a native of Darmstadt, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany. They have had the following children: George; Ludwig and Helen, both of whom died young; August, Eliza, Carl and Harold. Since coming to Meriden, Mr. Kuntze has identified himself with the development of the town and where he has become known as a highly esteemed, adopted citizen. He stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends, and the patrons of his store, located on East Main street, have learned to know and appreciate his good qualities.

He is a member of the Meriden Saengerbund and the Meriden Turn Verein. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W. and of Silver City Court, Ancient Order of Foresters.

R. S. GODFREY.

One of the active young business men of Meriden is Raymond Sanford Godfrey, portrait and landscape photographer, who carries on business in an old established studio in the Hall & Lewis building, where he has met with a goodly measure of success. He was born in Mechanicsville, Iowa, August 4, 1876, the son of Walter and Ruth L. (Sims) Godfrey. His father, now deceased, an industrious cabinet maker, resided in Connecticut during his young manhood, but afterwards removed West where he died. His mother, born at South Manchester, Conn., returned to this state after the death of her husband and has for some years resided in Meriden.

Raymond Godfrey, who has been in Meriden since 1892, began his career as a photographer by securing employment in one of the celebrated Kellmer studios in Hazelton, Pa., where he learned the mysteries

of the business and developed an inborn talent for the calling. He afterwards accepted a position as staff photographer on the New York Journal where he remained for a period of two years and gained further valuable experience. Mr. Godfrey opened his present studio October 1, 1899, after having worked in several studios in New York and also in Meriden and thereby making his first start in business for himself and in this he has been entirely successful. The studio having been previously closed by its former occupants, was fitted up anew by Mr. Godfrey whose paraphernalia consists of every facility for both portrait work and the making of outside and interior views in which he excels. When the studio first became occupied by him the entrance was at 6 East Main street, but in 1903 the building was remodelled and at that time the entrance was changed to 1½ Colony street, making a much more convenient entrance, and bringing the gallery within easier access of the street. Mr. Godfrey has achieved a well earned reputation as a photographer and about 200 of his pictures are reproduced in the pages of this book.



R. S. GODFREY.

He is also deservedly popular as a resident and business man and is a member of the New England Photographers' Association. Mr. Godfrey is an enthusiastic automobilist and enjoys the distinction of being the first photographer of the town to own a car.

THE WINTHROP HOTEL.

This famous hostelry named for Governor Winthrop is a source of just pride to Meriden, for it comprises one of the finest in New England. The building was erected by Walter Hubbard to meet the demands of the growing city for a hotel which should not only be elegant in appearance but also in appointments and conveniences, and it has ever been a luxurious home for the traveling public; while its excellent cuisine has also been much appreciated by the people of Meriden.

TOWN AGENTS, MERIDEN, CONN.

EZEKIEL RICE 1806 — JOHN HALL 1806 — THEOPHILUS HALL 1807 — MARVEL ANDREWS 1808 9 — PATRICK CLARK 1810 11-12 13 14 — OTHNIEL IVES 1815-16 — ELISHA CURTIS 1817-18 1828-30-31 — SETH D PLUM 1822-23-24-25 — MOSES ANDREWS 1840


ASAHEL MERIAM 19 20 21


MOSES BALDWIN 1826 27 28


ORRIN HALL 1852

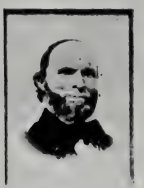

ELI G BIRDSEY 1853

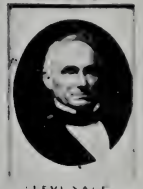

BENJ GIBSON 1854


CALVIN COE 1835 36 1844 & 1843


NOAH REMEROY 1837 41 42 45


STEPHEN ATKINS 1838


JAMES S BROOKS 1859


LEVI YALE 1845-46 47 48 1852 53 54 55


JOEL MILLER 1850 51


JOEL I BUTLER 1856


TOWN HALL
ERECTED A D 1814 REMODELED AND REBUILT A D 1892


OTHNIEL IVES 1857 58 59 60 1865 66


HEMPHREY SON 1861


BELA CARTER 1862 63 64


S C PADDOCK 1867


GEORGE GAY 1868 69 70 71 72


OLIVER RICE 1873


E D CASTELOW 1874 75 76 77


D S WILLIAMS 1878 79-80 81


GEO W MILLER 1882 1898


C C KINNE 1885 84-85


H E HUBBARD 1886


LE GRAND BEVINS 1887-88 89 90 91-92-93


GEO L ELLSBREE 1894 95-96


ERNEST A LEIGH 1897



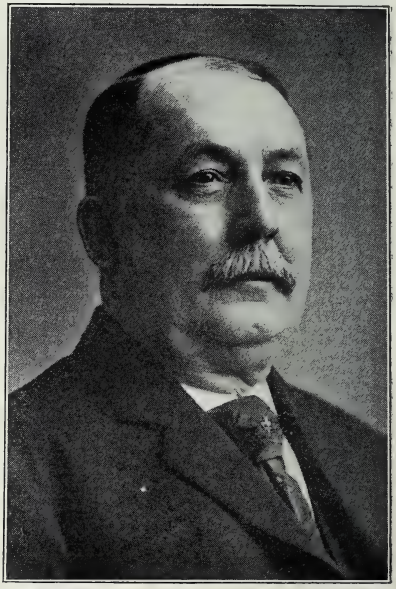
COLD SPRING HOME.

The building situated on Colony St. faces Winthrop Square, within one minute of Meriden's principal railroad station, and is a brick and brownstone structure, eighty-five feet by 225 in dimensions, and in front five stories high. There are 104 rooms, eighty of which are sleeping chambers. The furnishings are of a luxurious character and were furnished by the Winthrop Hotel Company, composed of a few leading citizens, who secured a long lease of the property, and released it to the present proprietors, George H. and James H. Bowker. These well known bonifaces also conduct the Hotel Hamilton in Holyoke and the Draper at Northampton, Mass. The management of the Winthrop, like that of other hotels controlled by the firm, has been of the highest order and highly pleasing to the public. James H. Bowker has been the resident partner ever since the hotel was opened and he is counted as one of the valued men of Meriden. He serves on the Centennial Committee.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

WINTHROP HOTEL.



JAMES H. BOWKER.

PART III.

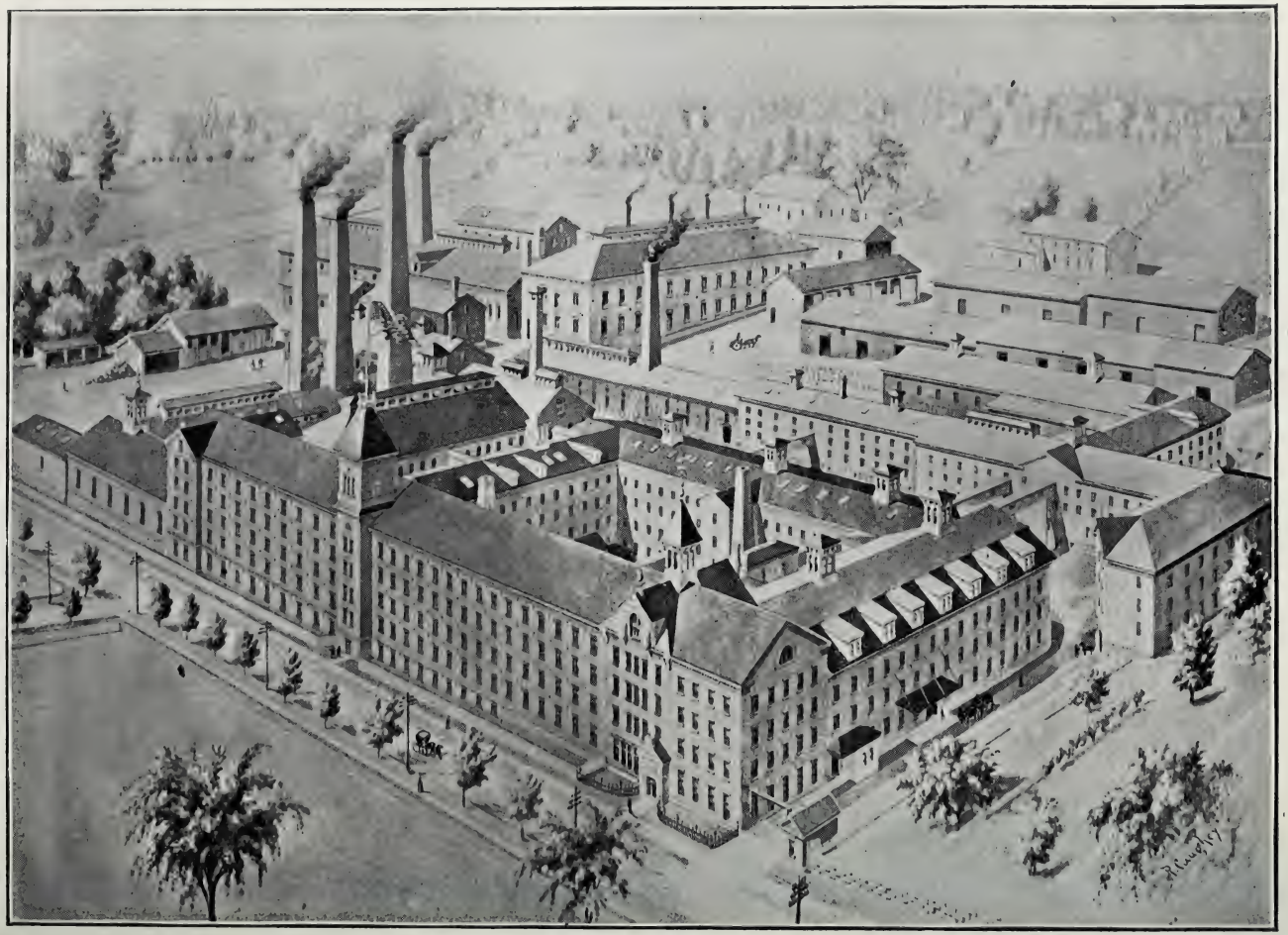
MANUFACTORIES OF MERIDEN

EDWARD MILLER & CO.

One of Meriden's most important industries is that carried on by Edward Miller & Co., famous the world over for the "Miller" lamp, and which concern also manufactures lamp trimmings of every variety, tinners' hardware, brass and bronze goods, gas and electric fixtures. Edward Miller, who founded the business in 1844, interested a number of capitalists in the concern in 1866, and in July of that year a joint stock company was formed under the name of Edward Miller & Company, with a capital of $200,000. Mr. Miller, however, long before had established the business, which was begun by him before he had attained his majority. Mr. Miller's father was at first associated with him under the name of Joel Miller & Son. The partnership lasted but two years, when the son purchased his father's interest. The business from the beginning grew rapidly and larger quarters were found to be necessary. A wooden building was erected on the site of the present huge plant but the structure, together with its contents, was destroyed by fire in 1856. This misfortune was followed by the panic in 1857 but the business survived both calamities. In 1858 Mr. Miller began the manufacture of kerosene burners, being the first in America to make and put upon the market burners using kerosene oil made from distilled coal; bronzes, sheet brass and brass utensils of various kinds being later manufactured. The company has found it necessary to enlarge the plant several times owing to the growth of the business.

The Miller Company does an immense export business and it is probable that there is hardly a region of the world where its product has not gone. The factory occupies several acres and 800 workmen are employed. Not only have the Miller products been designed to be substantial, useful and honest goods, but much time and thought have been expended in order that they should be artistic as well. The result is the uninterrupted success of the company.

The Miller Company made famous the "Rochester" lamp, which it began to manufacture in 1884, but when pressed by imitators, it was determined to produce a still better, more scientifically constructed and artistic light giver. The result was the "Miller" lamp, which, absolutely simple, is known to the trade as the "perfect lamp." The latest line is that of gas and electric fixtures.



FACTORY OF EDWARD MILLER & CO.

The present officers and directors of the company are as follows:

President, Edward Miller; secretary and treasurer, Edward Miller Jr.; assistant treasurer, Benjamin C. Kennard; superintendent, Arthur E. Miller; directors, Edward Miller, Arthur E. Miller, Hon. A. Chamberlain, Benjamin C. Kennard, Edward Miller, Jr., John L. Billard and Andrew J. Sloper.

The capital stock of the company is now $500,000.

Edward Miller, founder and president of this most important manufacturing concern, the history of which is given above, is an example of the successful American business man, who by his own efforts has risen to prominence in the community. Mr. Miller's genealogy is traced to John Miller, who emigrated from Maidstone, County of Kent, England, to Lynn, Massachusetts, moving to South Hampton, Long Island, about 1649. Mr. Miller's grandfather was Rev. Samuel Miller, who preached in Meriden for twenty-six years, dying in Wallingford, in 1829.

Edward Miller was born August 10, 1827, in Wallingford, son of Joel and Clarissa (Plum) Miller, and spent the early years of his life on the farm of his father, who gave the boy the usual schooling then provided for farmers' sons, which, in this case, included a short time at Post Academy, in Meriden. At fifteen he was employed in a factory, making lamp screws, hoops and candlestick springs. He was thus employed for several years until, while yet a youth, he determined to become his own master. He set about this with characteristic energy, purchased a set of tools, and associated himself with his father under the name of Joel Miller & Son. The business at first was a small one, but the young man knew his trade thoroughly, and prosperity attended him.

When only twenty he purchased his father's interest in the business, and his own legal time up to his majority, giving his notes for $800.00. It is interesting to know that these notes were paid before the close of the next year out of the profits of the business. With success crowning his efforts thus early, it is not difficult to understand the growth of the Miller company, which has since become so important a factor in the life of the city.

Mr. Miller in political views is a Republican. His active business life has left no time, however, for him to hold public office. He is a liberal supporter of the First Baptist church, to which in 1869 he gave a splendid organ. He also contributed generously toward the erection of the German Baptist church edifice. The Connecticut Literary Institute, at Suffield, and the Meriden Y. M. C. A. are among the many other worthy causes which have found in him a benefactor.

Mr. Miller was married on August 30, 1848, to Caroline M. Neal, daughter of Joseph and Matilda (Barnes) Neal, of Southington, Con-



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FOUNDRY, EDWARD MILLER & CO.

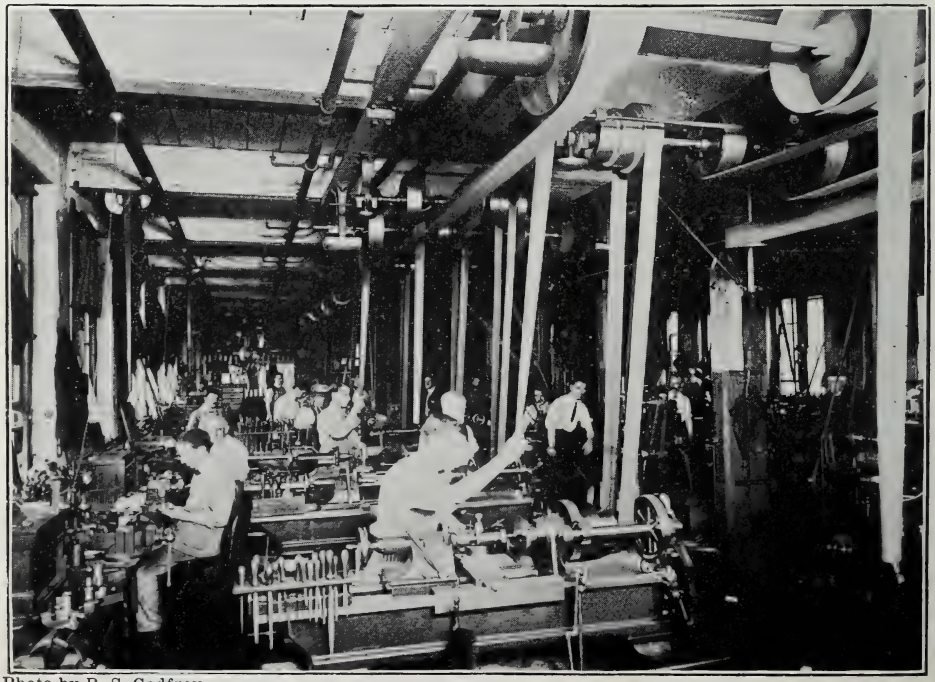


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

MACHINE ROOM, EDWARD MILLER & CO.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PERFORATING ROOM, EDWARD MILLER & CO.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

AUTOMATIC LATHE ROOM, EDWARD MILLER & CO.

necticut. Of the five children born to them the following three survive: Edward Miller, Jr., a graduate of Brown University, secretary and treasurer of Edward Miller & Company; Arthur E. Miller, superintendent of Edward Miller & Company, and Mrs. Layette A. Kendrick, residing in Meriden.

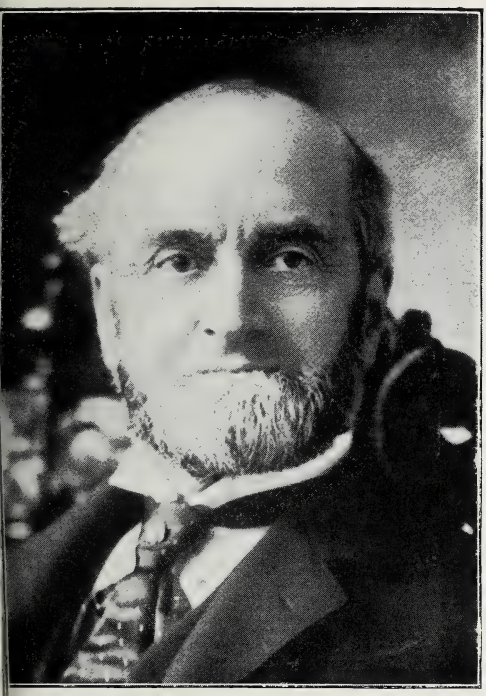
Edward Miller, Jr., secretary and treasurer of the Edward Miller & Company corporation, is the elder son of Edward Miller, president of the company which bears his name. He was born February 1, 1851, and attended the Meriden public schools until 1868 when he went to the Suffield Preparatory Academy, later entering Brown University and graduating with honors with the class of '74. In the fall of that year he entered his father's factory where he applied himself to learning the business in a practical way in the different departments, becoming each year a more important factor in the business. Since 1882 he has held the offices of both secretary and treasurer and during recent years has assumed a greater portion of the responsibilities of the active management. He is known as one of Meriden's ablest manufacturers and the good name the company enjoys has been due in a measure to the important part he has taken in the affairs of the company.

Mr. Miller has served two terms in the Meriden common council and has also been a valued member of the school committee of the town. He is one of the trustees of the City Savings Bank and is a member of the Home Club. Mr. Miller is an ardent lover of music and books. Being a great reader he possesses one of the finest private libraries in Meriden. Since 1874 he has had charge of the music at the First Baptist church in which position both his father and grandfather preceded him, the latter in the old edifice.

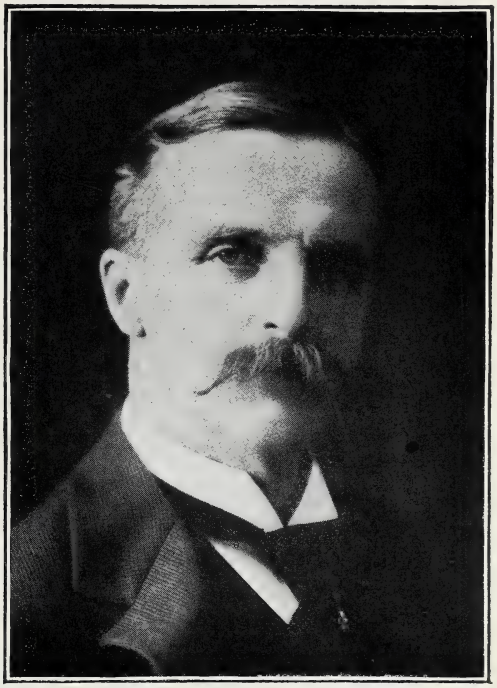
He resides at the Edward Miller residence on Broad street and is unmarried.

Benjamin C. Kennard, assistant treasurer and one of the directors of Edward Miller & Company corporation, was born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1849, where he obtained his education, which included an attendance at the Cambridge High school. At ten years of age Mr. Kennard began to be self-supporting and from that age worked at some business or other during his school life. Previous to coming to Meriden he was chief accountant of a large importing and exporting house in Boston. He became head bookkeeper of Edward Miller & Company in 1872, since which time he has been connected with the large business, having for some years been a stockholder, assistant treasurer and a director in the company.

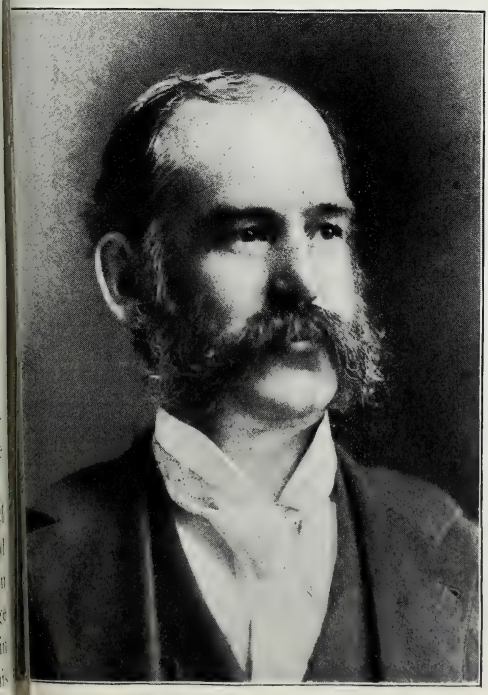
Mr. Kennard is a man of sound business judgment and reliability and his long connection with the concern makes him of great value to the large factory. He has been prominent in city and town affairs, being at this



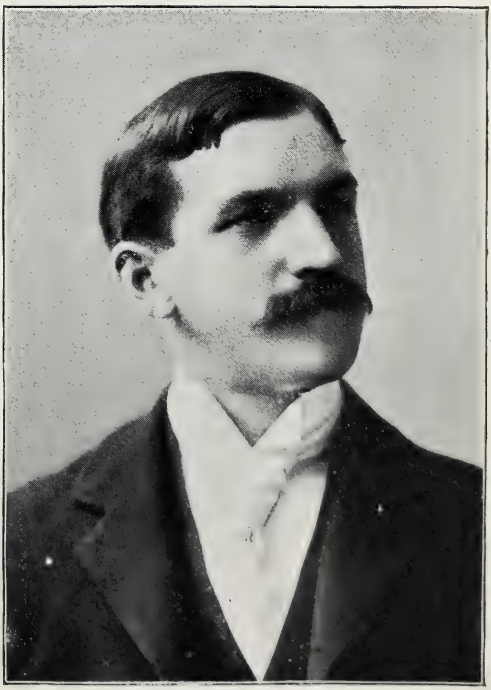
EDWARD MILLER.



EDWARD MILLER, JR.



BENJ. C. KENNARD.



ARTHUR E. MILLER.

writing a member of the board of apportionment and taxation. He also served in the Common Council in 1892-3 and again in 1896-7. He was alderman in 1894-5 and was the last clerk of the Prattsville school district before the consolidation. He is a member of the Home Club and assistant treasurer of the First Baptist church of Meriden. In 1875 he was married to Justina C., daughter of Ransom Baldwin, and his children consist of one son, B. Leighton Kennard, employed as bookkeeper for Russell Hall, and one daughter, Helen M. Kennard, who was married October 5, 1905, to William Atkins McKenzie, and whose pleasing contralto voice has been much appreciated at St. Paul's Universalist church, Meriden; Calvary Baptist church, New Haven, and Prospect M. E. church, Bristol.

Arthur Eugene Miller, who since 1901 has been the permanent superintendent of the Edward Miller & Company factory, is the second son of Edward Miller and was born in Meriden September 12, 1863. He attended private school in Meriden, afterwards graduating from the Hartford High school in 1883. Direct from that institution he entered Brown University where he remained but one year, owing to the urgent need of his services at the factory, with the work of which he had become in his spare time somewhat familiar. He began his manufacturing career at the bench and familiarized himself with the intricate workings of the big factory by practical application.

He was made assistant superintendent on his own merits and only after he had proven his worth. Before he was finally made the permanent superintendent in 1901 he acted in that capacity on several occasions during the change of superintendents. Mr. Miller is known as one of the most practical young men in the factories of Meriden.

In social life he is a prominent figure. He is a member of the Home Club and a thirty-second degree member of the Masonic fraternity. He is a past master of Meridian Lodge, 77, F. & A. M., and was eminent commander of St. Elmo Commandery, Knights Templar, of Meriden, in 1902. He is unmarried and resides at the Edward Miller homestead.

THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

This concern which is recognized as leading the world in its line, and from whose factory emanated the first mechanical piano-player, and several years before that the first mechanical self-playing organ device, was organized in 1877 as the Wilcox & White Organ Company, the capital stock of which was $30,000.

The founders of the business were the late Horace C. Wilcox, then a well known silver plate manufacturer of Meriden, who furnished a portion of the capital, and H. K., James H. and the late E. H. and Howard White—father and three sons, who came here



FACTORY OF THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

from Brattleboro, Vt., at Mr. Wilcox's suggestion, to establish the business of making parlor organs.

From the outset the company manufactured a high grade instrument and before many years had elapsed the name of the Wilcox & White organ became a synonym for the best reed instrument made in this country and the output of the factory found a ready sale, a large number of the organs made being shipped to all parts of the civilized world.

In 1888 the Symphony or pneumatic self-playing organ, was invented and put upon the market which added to the already great triumphs the company had previously scored in the musical world.

It was in 1897 when the Angelus, the first device invented to attach to a piano for its mechanical playing, was conceived, that the company took an advance stride in the lead of musical instrument manufacturers, never to be overtaken by their followers. The Angelus was invented after many years of patient experiment by Edward H. White, the superintendent of the factory, and on account of the original and fundamental patents being in the control of the company they are in no possible danger of being copied to any damaging extent by imitators.

To the original patents, the keen inventive genius of the Whites of three generations have made additions to the marvelous mechanism of the self-playing piano player, until the music of the Angelus and the Angelus Pianos cannot be detected from perfect playing upon the keys by human hands.

Shortly after the Angelus made its startling debut upon the market where it was most graciously received, the company increased its capital stock from $75,000 to $150,000 and the name was changed from the Wilcox & White Organ Company to the Wilcox & White Company, Mr. James H. White continuing as the head of the concern. The factory which had been previously enlarged from time to time was again added to and a four-story structure 250 feet in length and 40 feet wide was erected for the manufacture of the Angelus. The company have, therefore, more than doubled the capacity of their factory within the past few years and are turning out at the present writing a large number of Angelus pianos and Angelus attachments a week. The output of the large factory which gives regular and excellent employment to from 300 to 400 men, finds not only a ready sale in this country, but foreign countries now make demands upon it for a full quarter of its production.

The Angelus attachment, which can be applied to any piano without interfering in any way with human playing, is made to match any piano case and the family possessing one of these marvelous mechanical players is indeed fortunate; for no more lasting entertainment can be conceived of for its cost which brings it within the reach of any ordinary mortal.

The Angelus pianos, which are also made by the Wilcox & White Com-

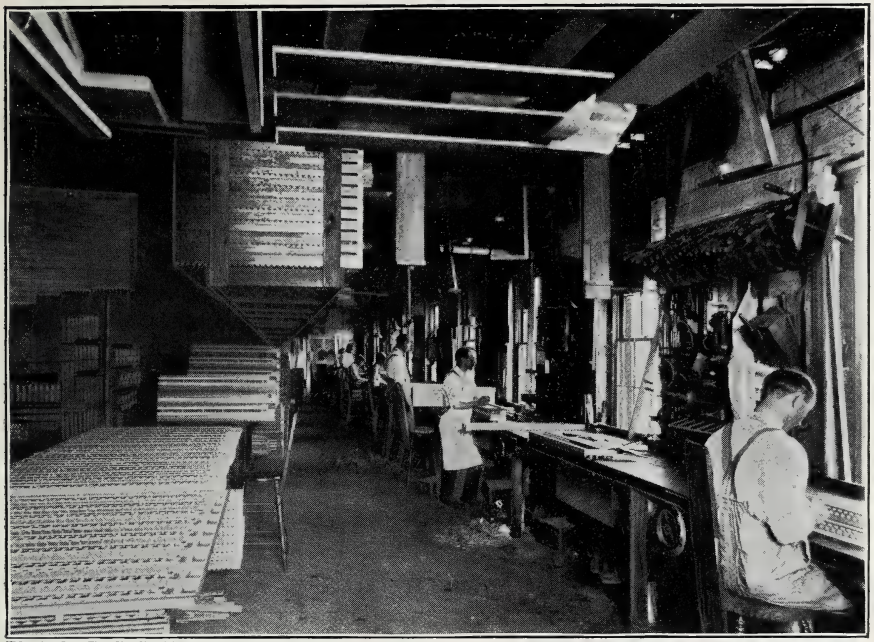


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ACTION DEPARTMENT, THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

POLISHING DEPARTMENT, THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

pany, can be played with or without or in conjunction with the Angelus which it contains. This twentieth century instrument not only leads the world in beauty of finish, tone, and careful construction, but promises to continue to do so for an indefinite period. It has dozens of imitators but has such an advanced lead and is so securely protected by iron clad patents that it cannot be approached by other manufacturers.

Every department of the great factory is conducted upon the most modern lines and every instrument emanating therefrom is rigidly inspected during the various stages of its construction.

A well known writer in Harper's magazine says of the White family and the Angelus, as follows:

"Beneficent Nature has placed within the soul of every human being the love of music. In every thousand she has picked a few for the richer dower of the ability to produce it. Among primitive people those mortals thus favored have been set apart for special honor, and even worshipped because of their godlike power of producing melody that would stir even the soul of a savage.

"If the power to produce music in person be a great mark of genius, what may be said of those who have conceived and perfected the means by which any one can produce it! This magnificent faculty, which means so much to every man or woman lacking musical genius and education, has been conferred upon universal mankind by Mr. H. K. White, his sons and grandson, in the conception and perfection of the Angelus, by which every one, from the child of three years to the musical artist, can play the piano with perfect technique, and expression limited only by the power of the player to feel the music being played.

"The origin of all good inventions can be traced to the instinct and temperament of their inventors; and the student of history finds in the White family ample indications of musical genius. Mr. H. K. White, the father, was born in 1822; he taught singing school at eighteen, led the choir, played the violin and flute in church for many years. In 1849 he began manufacturing melodeons at New London, Conn. His oldest son, Mr. J. H. White, was from boyhood about his father's factory, and at an early age began the study of constructing instruments and the tuning of organs and pianos. He sang in the church choir at twelve, played the organ in church at seventeen, and continued to do so for sixteen years thereafter.

"To Mr. E. H. White, the second son, since deceased, is given the credit for the conception of the idea of playing the piano mechanically by means of the music-roll, and the first successful device for the work was constructed under his direction on the inside of a piano in 1895; from which time until the present the Angelus has been placed on the inside of pianos. In 1897 he had made under his supervision, and patented by him, the outside or cabinet of a separate piano-

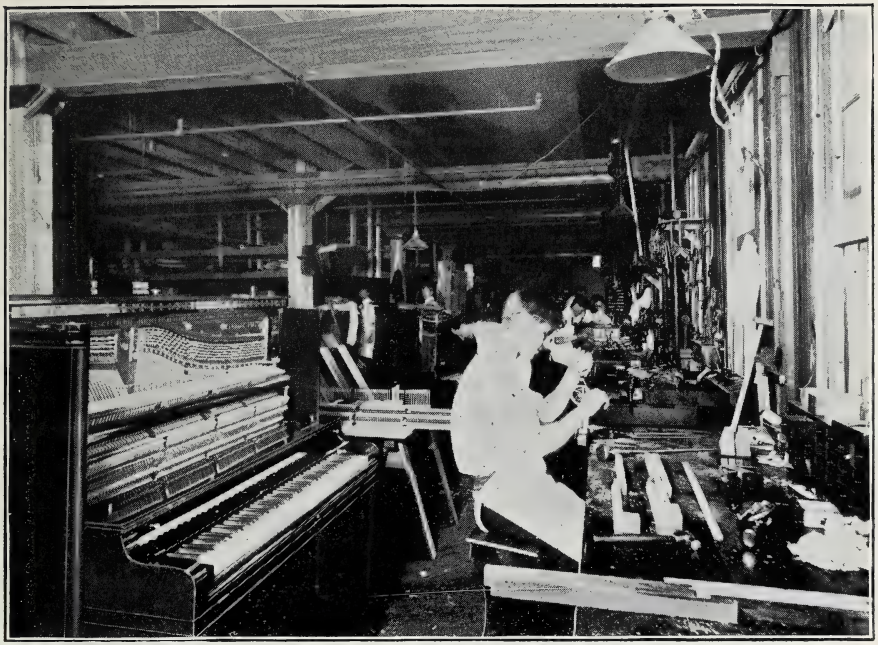


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

PIANO DEPARTMENT, THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

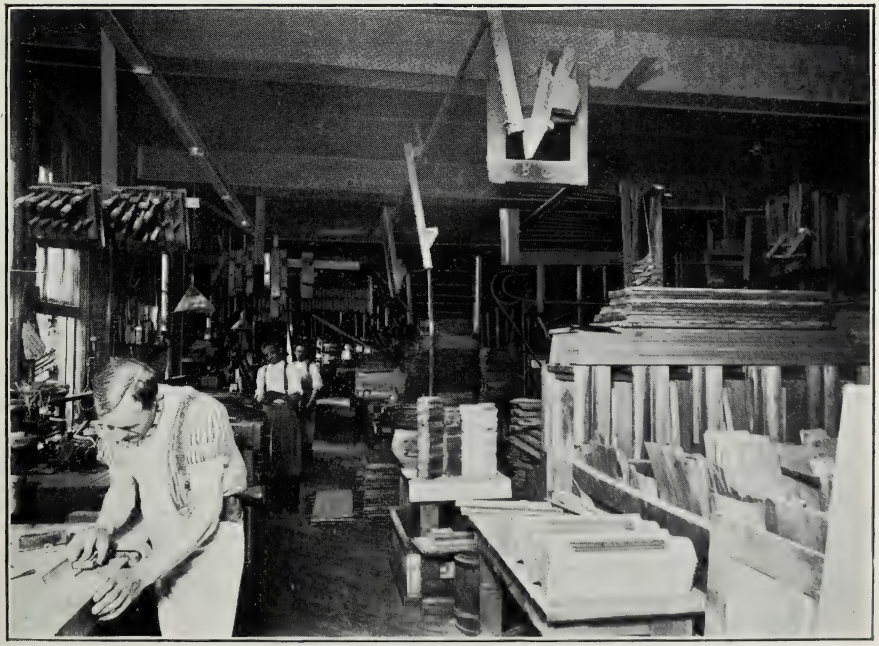


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

CASE ROOM, THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

player, which is the present Angelus.

"A third son, Howard White, also deceased, began tuning and constructing organs at the age of sixteen, following the profession for about eighteen years, assisting his father and brothers in the development of their instruments, the Symphony and the Angelus.

"Mr. F. C. White represents the third generation of this musical family. He developed an unusual talent both in music and mechanics at a very early age, entering the employ of the company of which his father was and is the president. The United States Patent office amply testifies to the various inventions of his, which have added the recent remarkable improvements that have developed the Angelus to an instrument of almost human qualities. The piano-player conception was Mr. White's. The first piano-player ever built—the Angelus—was Mr. White's. To-day, the only piano-player, with powers of expression that a committee of musical critics failed to distinguish from hand playing, is the Angelus invented and improved by three generations of musical genius. To-day the Angelus principle, for the facilitation of technique—taking the place of fullest knowledge of notes and keys—promises to become universally combined with the piano.

"Of course many of these instruments are imitations of the Angelus, and, like all imitations, have vital shortcomings.

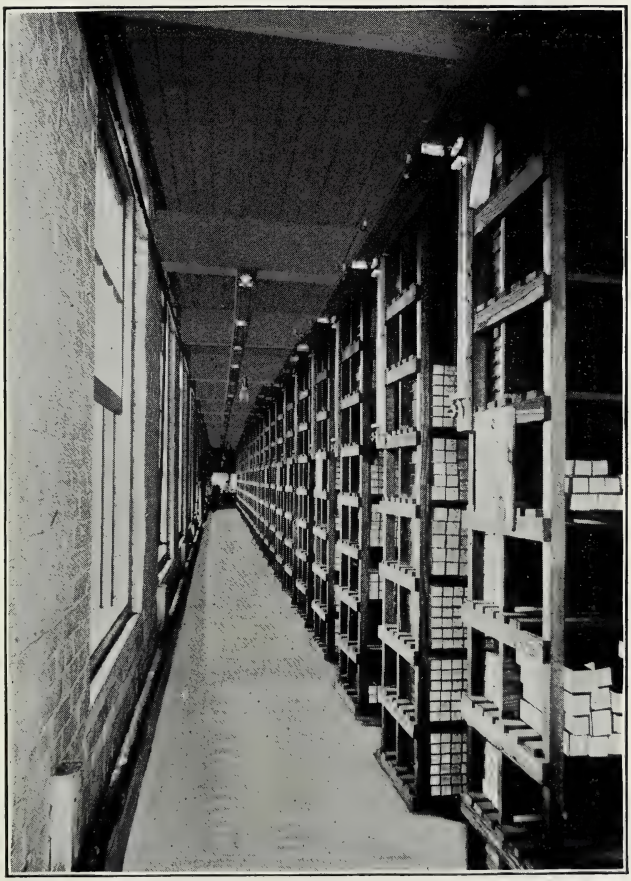
"The Angelus holds its position of pre-eminence because it is an original invention, whose inventors still live—father, son, grandson—all of unquestioned musical genius, still adding constantly to its powers, making it more human in its possibilities, more artistic in its wonderful effects. The imitator who must ferret his way around patent laws, is naturally handicapped, and his machine is merely mechanical. The Angelus alone gives soul to the music. Dominant, live, energetic, ambitious, capable genius makes the Angelus, to-day as ever, the pre-eminent and incomparable piano-player."

Henry Kirk White, father and grandfather of the family which now leads the world in the genius of inventing and perfecting self-playing pianos, was born in Bolton, Conn., in 1822. His antecedents came from England and were among the occupants of the "William and Mary," which ship landed off Nantasket, Mass., in 1630, and enabled its passengers to escape from the then religious persecutions of their native country.

H. K. White spent his boyhood days on the home farm and obtained such education as he could secure at the district school in winter and reading instructive books at home. He showed a love for music when a boy of tender years; this developed as he grew older into an unusual talent. Long before the age of twenty he became a teacher in the singing school and leader of choruses and was a familiar figure in musical circles throughout the state.

In 1841, having learned scientific tuning of pianos and organs he went west and engaged in that calling, traveling somewhat extensively for some four years. In 1845 he located in Colchester and in the employ of factory being at New London, Conn.

In 1853 he moved the then modest industry to Washington, N. J., where he continued until the breaking out of the Civil War, when like many others he suspended business to await de-



MUSIC ROOM, THE WILCOX & WHITE CO.

Denison Smith first began his career in the manufacture of musical instruments. Two years later through industry, perseverance and strict economy he was enabled to engage in the manufacture of melodeons, his first velopments, remaining in Philadelphia and vicinity until 1865, when he was called to Brattleboro, Vt., by the Estey Organ Company to take charge of their tuning and action department, taking with him his family, and where

his sons also obtained positions where they also rose rapidly.

It was in 1876 that Mr. White and his sons succeeded in interesting Meriden capital to such an extent that with the co-operation of the late Horace C. Wilcox in 1877, the Wilcox & White Organ Company was organized. The industry was welcomed by Meriden people, and has been a success from the start and until recent years, when he has earned a rest from the cares of business, he was actively engaged at the factory.

Not a little of the great success that has been achieved by the company is due to his genius and the encouragement of his sons and his grandsons, whose ambition to leave the world a class of musical instruments that has made the name famous, has been fully realized.

Mr. White has served both the town and city of Meriden in public office. He has been a member of the Board of Aldermen, being chosen to represent the Fifth ward and in the discharge of his duties as a member of the city government he won the gratitude of his constituents and the city at large. For many years he was re-elected a member of the school committee and was the first chairman of his district. The interest that Mr. White has taken in the education of the young in Meriden never failed to be shown in his every act as a member of the school board.

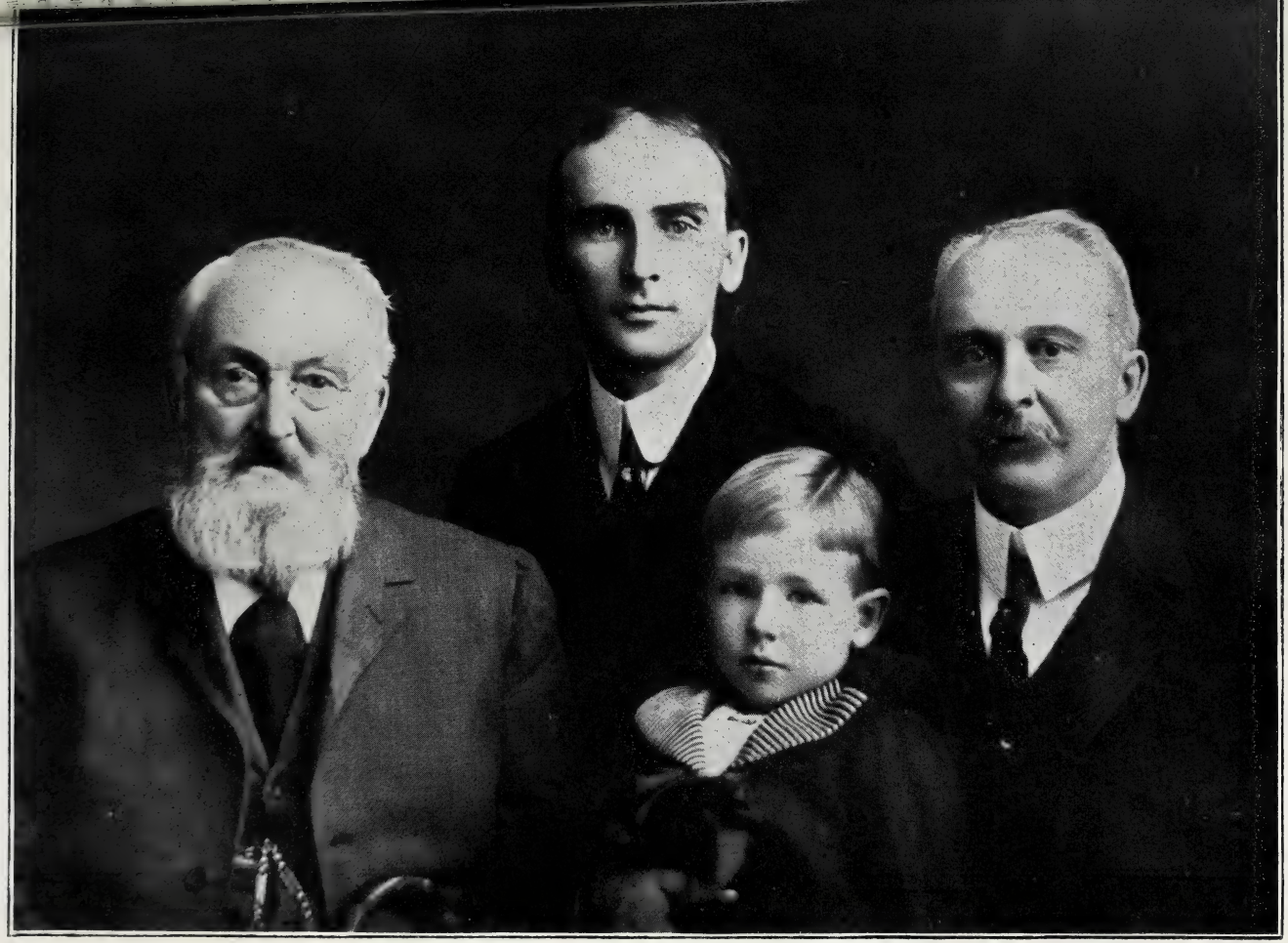
Mr. White has been twice married, first to Lucy Cornwell, daughter of William and Julia (Roberts) Cornwell, of Middletown, Conn., and after her death, which occurred February 18, 1867, to Mrs. Betsy Herrick, daughter of Benjamin Stickney, of Dummerston, Vt. By his first marriage he had four children as follows: James H., president and treasurer of the Wilcox & White Company; Edward H. and Howard (both deceased), and Julia Cornwell, now Mrs. Silas Donovan, of Meriden.

Mr. White is a member of the Masonic fraternity, being a Knight Templar.

Not long since an octogenarian, and although he has suffered a paralytic shock, he is still clear of eye and keen of intellect, and distinguished from the fact that he is probably the oldest living manufacturer of musical instruments in New England.

James Henry White, president and treasurer of the Wilcox & White Company and eldest son of H. K. White, was born in Westfield, Conn., September 26, 1847. He obtained his education in Somerville, Washington and Phillipsburg, N. J. When the family moved to Philadelphia during the Civil War he entered the famous mercantile establishment of John Wanamaker, where he embraced the opportunity and obtained a thoroughly practical business training.

When his father removed to Brattleboro, Vt., however, and assumed charge of the tuning and action department of the Estey Organ Company, young White rapidly adapted himself to the work of assisting his father in the tuning of the instruments.



FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE WHITE FAMILY.

Henry K. White. Frank C. White. H. Foster White. James H. White.

By close application to his work and a studious performance of his duties and with his father's guidance, he advanced rapidly and in a few years obtained a position fully as responsible and important as that held by his father.

After remaining in Brattleboro for a period of thirteen yeears, his ability together with that of his father and brothers, was recognized by the late H. C. Wilcox to such an extent that he was induced to come to Meriden and in the formation of the present company of which for so many years he has been the practical head, he took the leading part.

The history of the company is but a creditable reflection upon his able management for in past adversity and later successes he has been the same able financier, kind employer and valued citizen. Although a man upon whom his business has made urgent calls, he has never shirked his duty to his fellow citizens in matters where public interest and local pride were concerned. He has represented the Fifth ward in the city council but has never sought nor accepted any other public office. He is on the board of directors of the Home National Bank, one of the trustees of the First Congregational Church and a prominent member of the Home Club of Meriden.

He was married December 1, 1868, to Kate, daughter of Samuel T. R. and Martha (Brown) Cheney, of Brattleboro, Vt., and they have three children: Frank Cornwell, one of the officers of the Wilcox & White Company, and who has invented many valuable improvements to the Angelus; Grace Louise and Florence May (Mrs. Harry Smith). During the preparation for the Centennial celebration by the citizens of Meriden Mr. White has taken a most important part, being a member of the general committee and chairman of the committee on finance.

The late Edward H. White, from the first inception of the industry to the time of his death, with his father and brothers in the Wilcox & White Company, was born in Washington, N. J., on April 5, 1855. His early business training and his experience in the manufacture of musical instruments were at the works of the Estey Organ Company, at Brattleboro, Vt. When the Wilcox & White Company began the manufacture of organs he supervised from the beginning the tuning and voicing of the instruments. His name will ever be famous in history from the fact that he conceived the idea of a practical device for playing the piano mechanically by means of music rolls which invention was first produced by the Wilcox & White Company in 1895 and which was the original Angelus but since largely improved upon by the company and which leads the world in its class.

Mr. White's original invention created a marvelous sensation in the musical world immediately; and it is now used in every country on the globe and although some time after other inventions for the same purpose were

created by imitators, the patent taken out by Mr. White and the company in which he was interested have protected the Angelus from the damaging infringement of others.

During the lifetime of Mr. White he served as secretary and superintendent of the Wilcox & White Company from its re-organization. He was a man possessed of a very lovable disposition and was kind and considerate to his fellow men and exceedingly devoted to his family.

When very young he was married to Mary Carter, a daughter of the late Bela Carter, and upon his death left besides his widow, one son, Allan White, a promising young man of somewhat delicate health. His widow resides at the corner of Britannia and Griswold streets, Meriden, and is much beloved in the community. Her simple life is spent in a great measure carrying out the same charitable benevolence that characterized their daily life before the death of her husband.

Howard White, who until his death on December 9, 1897, was superintendent of the Wilcox & White Company, was born in Somerville, N. J., September 9, 1856. He was the youngest son of H. K. White and was possessed of much mechanical genius and musical talent, both of which he inherited from his father. Like his brother, J. H. White, he obtained his first insight in the manufacturing of musical instruments at the works of the Estey Organ Company, in Brattleboro, Vt., previously from sixteen to eighteen years of age, having assisted his father in tuning pianos in Philadelphia.

From the organization of the Wilcox & White Company up to the time of his regretted decease, he took a most important part in the growth and development of the concern. During his life his fertile brain did its full part toward making inventions and improvements to the Symphony and Angelus and his watchful eye was ever on the alert in keeping the different departments of the large industry up to the highest standard. He was not only one of the best known manufacturers in Meriden but a valued citizen whose death caused a great loss to the community. He was a social favorite and a member of the Home Club of Meriden and was generous to a fault in alleviating the deserving cases of necessity among his fellow men. He was married in 1880 to Flora A., daughter of Russell J. Ives, of Meriden. Upon Mr. White's decease he left a widow and two boys, Russell Ives and Stanley White, who reside in Meriden.

Frank C. White, son of J. H. White and grandson of H. K. White, was born on October 28, 1870, obtained a good school education, entered the employ of the Wilcox & White Company in 1887, and has from early boyhood been of a very inventive and mechanical turn of mind; his whole time is now devoted to the experimental department; has produced and patented numerous ingenious devices for the still further improvement of

the instruments manufactured by The Wilcox & White Company, which stand foremost in the musical world. He is also a director of the company.

Robert W. Carter, secretary of the Wilcox & White Company, and one



ROBERT W. CARTER.

of the Board of Police Commissioners of Meriden, is a son of the late Bela Carter. He was born in Meriden August 29, 1871, and graduated from the Meriden High school in 1888. After associating himself with his father's business for a few years, he entered the office of the Meriden Britannia Company where he remained for five years in the invoicing department. He afterwards efficiently filled the position of cashier in the office of W. J. Kingsland in New York City, an extensive manufacturers' export agent.

In 1900 he succeeded his brother-in-law, the late Edward H. White, as secretary of the Wilcox & White Company, in which large concern he is also one of the directors. He is a Republican in politics and at the age of twenty-four was elected a member of the Common Council from the Second ward. In 1905 he was appointed a member of the Board of Police Commissioners by Mayor Seeley. He is prominent in social life, being a member of the Home Club, the Meriden Golf Club and the Colonial Club of Meriden. He is also a member of Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum.

Fred E. Bemis, who since 1899, has been superintendent of the Wilcox &



FRED E. BEMIS.

White Company, was born in Boston February 6, 1863, a son of Orlando and Frances (Cheney) Bemis. His father is engaged in the meat business in Oakland, California. He traces his

ancestry on the maternal side back to the Revolutionary War period when his great-grandfather was a soldier in the Continental army.

Mr. Bemis was educated in Brattleboro, Vt., and Oakland, Cal., and has been connected with the Wilcox & White Company ever since its organization. He attained the office of superintendent entirely on his own merits and his almost unlimited capacity for work coupled with his great executive ability make him a most valuable officer of the company.

He is a member of Meridian Lodge, F. and A. M., Keystone Chapter, and Hamilton Council, R. & S. M., Alfred H. Hall Council, Royal Arcanum. He married Miss Bertha S. Carter, daughter of the late Bela Carter, and they have two sons, Leslie Carter Bemis and Robert Cheney Bemis.

MERIDEN CUTLERY CO.

Among the many business enterprises that unite to give to Meriden a world-wide reputation as a manufacturing center, one of the oldest and most prosperous is the Meriden Cutlery Company. Although not one of the largest concerns in the city, this company, through the able and conservative management of its officers, has been enabled to sustain, during the seventy-three years of its existence, a reputation for offering to the public the very best that can possibly be produced in its line of goods.

In 1832 David Ropes commenced the manufacture of table cutlery at Saccarappa, Maine, and was the first to attempt the production of this class of goods in America. As he purchased his ivory handles of Julius Pratt & Co., who made ivory combs in Meriden, in 1846, he came to South Meriden to manufacture cutlery, there being an excellent water privilege there which is still the only motive power, and a company was formed called Pratt, Ropes, Webb & Company. In 1855 the company was incorporated under the name of Meriden Cutlery Company, which name it has ever since borne. Julius Pratt was the first president, and J. B. Beadle, secretary and treasurer; Mr. Beadle was later made general manager which office he held at the time of his death in 1877; while Randolph Linsley was traveling salesman. The capital was at first $75,000, which has been increased to $400,000.

In 1878 the offices of the company, which had been situated in New York, were moved to Meriden. In 1879 came a change in the list of officers, Aaron L. Collins being chosen president, Homer A. Curtiss secretary, and George M. Howell, treasurer.

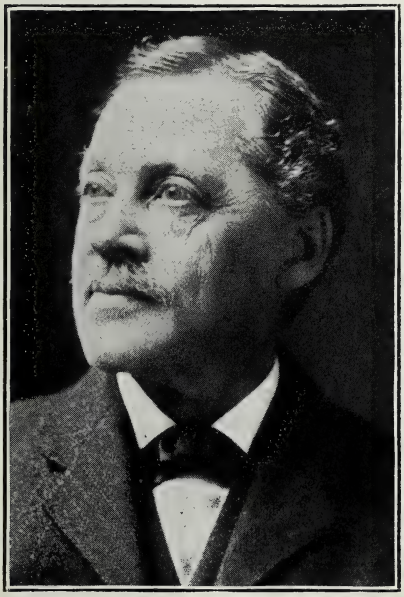
The early sixties were especially prosperous for the company, a patent on a hard rubber handle giving them a very large trade in that particular line of goods. Through wise and conservative management, Mr. Collins kept the concern on a firm basis as long as he lived. At his death, which occurred in 1903 Homer A. Curtiss was chosen president. The present officers are as follows: President and



FACTORY OF MERIDEN CUTLERY COMPANY.

Treasurer, Homer A. Curtiss; Secretary, Thomas A. Benham; Assistant Treasurer, J. P. Grosvenor; Superintendent, R. W. Hallam; Directors, Walter Hubbard, John L. Billard, C. L. Rockwell, A. Chamberlain, F. B. Wilcox, J. M. Gildersleeve, R. W. Hallam, B. W. Collins and H. A. Curtiss.

When the company was first started, the production was limited to



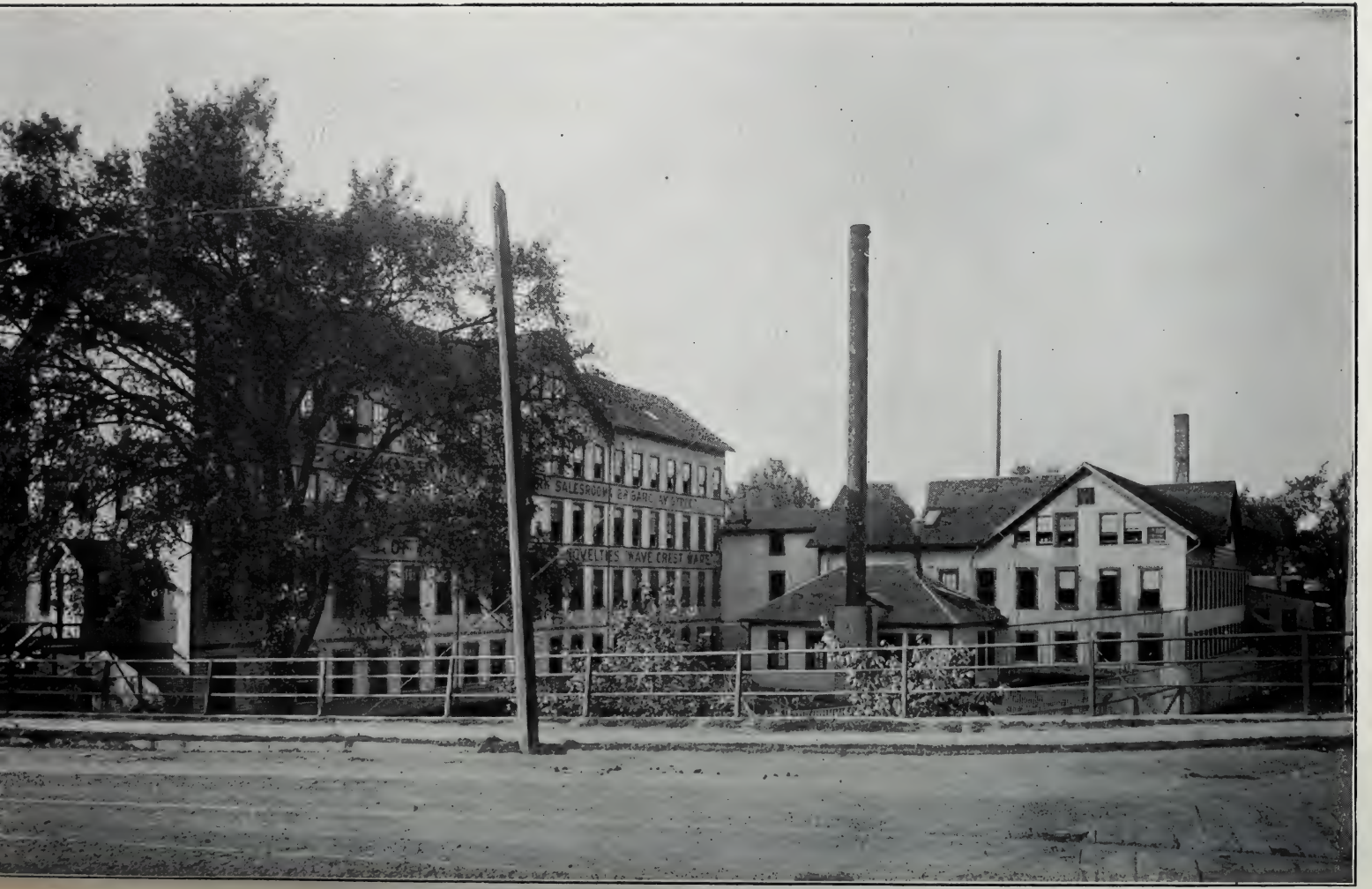
HOMER A. CURTISS.

ivory-handled knives and forks, but the line has gradually increased until it has embraced everything that would naturally come under the head of table cutlery. These include table knives and forks, carving sets, butcher, bread, cook's, kitchen and shoe knives, putty knives, spatulas, cork screws, pie knives, orange knives, berry spoons, orange spoons, cream ladles, sugar shells, oyster forks, pickle forks, cheese scoops, etc., their specialty being the famous Anvil brand carvers.

For the handles of these various articles the ends of the earth have been required to yield their bounty. The depths of the mines give forth their ore for steel and silver; the mountain heights their stag horn; the bottom of the Indian Ocean its pearl; Madagascar its ebony; the African jungle its ivory; the South Ameican forest its rubber and cocobola wood. All this material, collected as it is, from every corner of the globe, the Meriden Cutlery Company gives back to the world a finished product, the quality and workmanship of which cannot be surpassed either in this or foreign countries.

THE C. F. MONROE COMPANY.

A concern which for some years has added much fame to Meriden as a manufacturing center and which within recent years has experienced a most remarkable growth is the C. F. Monroe Company. The business was established by Charles F. Monroe in 1886, and has been carried on by him with remarkable success. The history of the business, therefore, for the past twenty years, is a history of its president and treasurer; for by his own indefatigable energy and exercise of talent coupled with an exhibition of rare executive ability has the success of the now large factory been attained.



FACTORY OF THE C. F. MONROE COMPANY.

Mr. Monroe is a native of Providence, R. I., where he obtained his early education. When the old Flint Glass Company was started in Meriden by the late Horace C. Wilcox, Mr. Monroe was engaged as a designer by that company. After giving the glass company the benefit of his much appreciated services for some years, he went to Europe. Upon his return



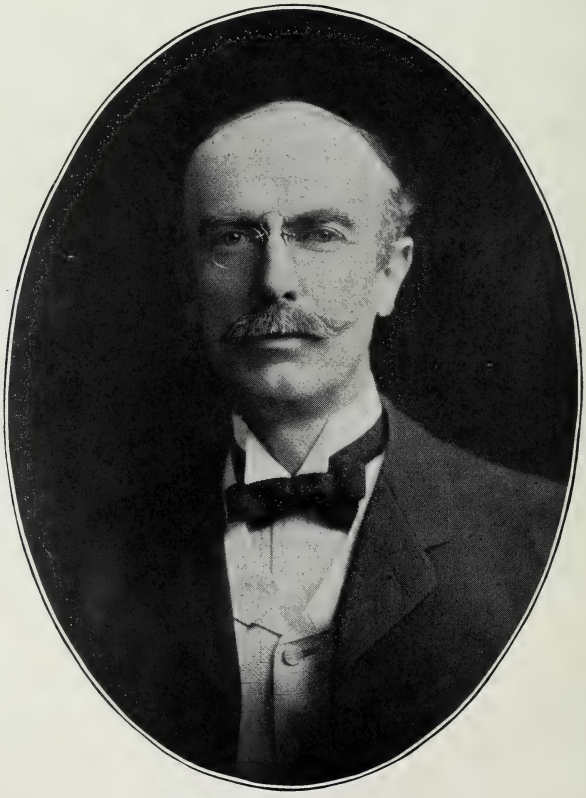
OFFICE, C. F. MONROE COMPANY.

rom abroad Mr. Monroe opened an rt store, the location of which was n the Guy building. In addition to onducting that commendable business e was called upon to do designing by utside parties. The demands made pon him finally became so great that t the end of three or four years he pened a factory of his own and began the manufacture of decorated glass ware, his first location being on the second floor of the Carter building which adjoined the works of the Meriden Britannia Company, on State street, and where he soon made his name famous in the manufacturing world by putting upon the market a line of decorated goods, most original and attractive, known as "Wave Crest" ware. These goods have ever since been eagerly sought for by buyers in all parts of the United States.

Upon the advice of H. C. Wilcox, in whom he had a most valued friend, Mr. Monroe erected a building on the present site which comprised a two and a half story wooden structure 30 by 62 feet in dimensions.

In 1891 a building three stories in height, 62 by 32 feet, was added to the factory; and the same year the roof of the original building was raised another story, making more than double the original capacity for the busy industry.

moved to a position nearer Main street, making a building 125 feet long, the whole of which was raised to five stories in height on the old foundations. At this time another but entirely new building 125 by 30 feet, of three stories, was erected on



CHARLES F. MONROE.

In 1900 Mr. Monroe purchased the land next the factory extending as far as Main street, which he caused to be filled in by his concern at a great expense. Again the factory was still further and more noticeably enlarged. The old buildings were separated and

an angle with the main building. The factory has recently become possessed of an entirely new power plant, with its imposing and stately chimney, which was completed in July, 1905. After the old power house was torn out the plant was equipped with a

large enough engine and boiler and also a generator of sufficient voltage capacity to supply the entire factory not only with electric lights but with motor power for all the different departments.

It was but a few years after Mr. Monroe removed to the present location that glass cutting was added to his output of decorated goods.

A short time after the addition of the cut glass department came that of metal goods. The latest departure of the Monroe Company is the sterling silver department which turns out ware unsurpassed either in design or make in this country or Europe.

The factory of the C. F. Monroe Company gives. employment to 200 hands, many of whom are accomplished artists, engravers and designers—necessarily a class of workmen who call for a large weekly pay-roll on the part of the company. The factory adds more than a little to the prosperity of Meriden and is not only healthfully located, but has been improved to such an extent, both in its artistic interior and attractive grounds, that it is known to the trade as one of the best and neatest kept manufacturing plants in all New England. Its office and show rooms are fitted up artistically and the goods displayed are of such excellence of mechanism and beauty of pattern that the place furnishes a most interesting sight for visitors to frequent. In fact, even the people of Meriden and vicinity are attracted there frequently and seem to take a pardonable pride in showing their friends the dainty articles made there which are so suitable for wedding and other gifts.

Both the show rooms and offices are more than ordinarily attractive and they have been fitted up and arranged by Mr. Monroe's artistic eye.

Mr. Monroe conducted the business alone until 1892 when, on account of the large increase of business, he found it necessary to form a corporation retaining a large portion of the stock himself and continuing as the active head and holding the offices of both president and treasurer to the present writing. The company is capitalized at $40,000 and the value of the plant represents to-day an investment of over $200,000.

Mr. Monroe is a member of the Board of Trade and of the general committee of the Meriden Centennial celebration. He is silently interested in several other enterprises besides the concern which bears his name. His efforts in the formation of the Home Club resulted in securing the present club house; and in raising the funds for which he assumed the burden of a great responsibility. Mr. Monroe has been president of the Home Club, of which he is a most valued member; and he is prominent in both social and yachting circles.

He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and was one of the founders of the New Bedford Yacht Club, of which he now holds the distinction of being one of the three honorary members. He is also

a member of the New York Yacht Club and an ex-commodore of the Pequot Yacht Club of New Haven. Until recently Mr. Monroe owned and sailed the "Sylph," one of the finest schooner yachts on the Atlantic coast.

THE E. A. BLISS COMPANY.

Meriden, at the close of its first century, is possessed of many manufactories in which it takes pardonable pride; and among its many thriving concerns is the E. A. Bliss Company. This company has experienced remarkable growth and its output, comprising novelties for personal adornment made in nickel, silver, gold and silver plate, combined with enamel, leather and comb-making material, is of a character particularly creditable to Meriden and the progress of human handiwork of the present advanced age.

The company, known as the "Tiffany" of the plated novelty trade, has justly and fairly earned that sobriquet; for it leads the whole United States in its line—a position which the E. A. Bliss Company has long since been most happily accorded.

The company began business in North Attleboro in 1875 and after fifteen years of unabated success were obliged to seek larger quarters for the manufacture of their goods; and, fortunately for Meriden, found a factory here well suited to their needs and which they occupied in July, 1890. To this several enlargements have been made from time to time, the most important of which was in 1903 when sixty-five feet were added to the three-story brick structure, making the main factory building 200 feet in length. In 1905 the basement was excavated the whole length of the factory, giving still more space. The entire building is now being utilized to its fullest extent and the plant is admirably lighted and equipped with every modern improvement; and the machinery, the latest and most practical, comprises several labor-saving devices gotten up and adopted by the concern for their sole use.

By continuously keeping up the quality of their goods to the highest possible standard, for the company cater only to the highest class of trade, the business has grown rapidly and with such strides that at this writing it has reached large proportions, being the largest of its kind in the Union, its fame extending to every state from Maine to California. Employment is furnished to 300 hands, many of whom are required to be not merely skilled, but talented artisans.

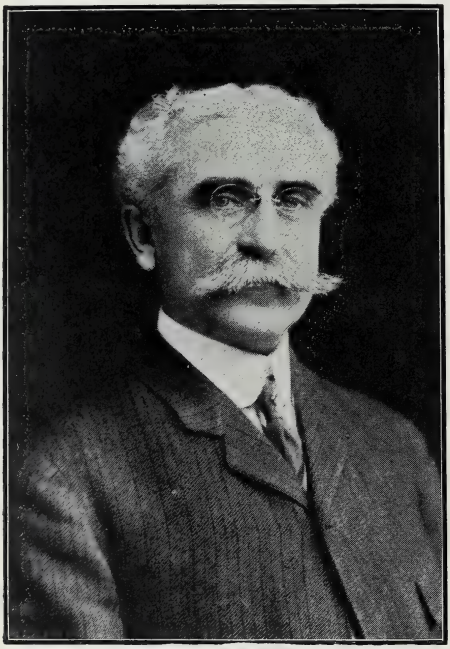
The interior of the large and busy factory is a model of neatness and the working hours of the employees are occupied amid healthy, clean and cheerful surroundings; so with fair and even liberal treatment from the concern it is that the best results are obtained.

There is no part of the large factory but is blessed with an abundance of daylight; and the plant is lighted when necessary with its own incandescent electric lighting plant, the equip-



FACTORY OF THE E. A. BLISS CO.

ment having in 1904 been increased by the addition of a generator of 110 volts capacity. The engine room furnishes 80 horse-power steam for the machinery.

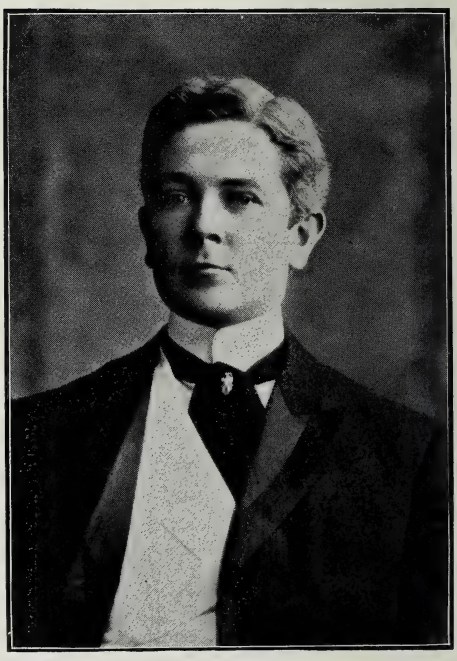


E. A. BLISS.

The product of the E. A. Bliss Company is of such variety and elegance that it almost beggars description. The almost bewildering array of small articles, to which some new creation is being added almost daily, is such as to commend the goods of this concern to the wide awake department store and jewelry buyer.

In 1901 the company began the manufacture of shell combs for modish hair dressing, and in this at once sprung into the lead in the trade. In the decoration of these shell combs, plated-ware adorned with imitations of all the precious stones of the world, are brought into use, and with most pleasing effects.

Perhaps the most notable of their latest departures and that which has brought them more fame than any other line of their vast product, is the success they have achieved in the production of leather novelties. There are the crush leather belts and girdles of mocha and kid, kept in shape, fastened and adorned with marvellously

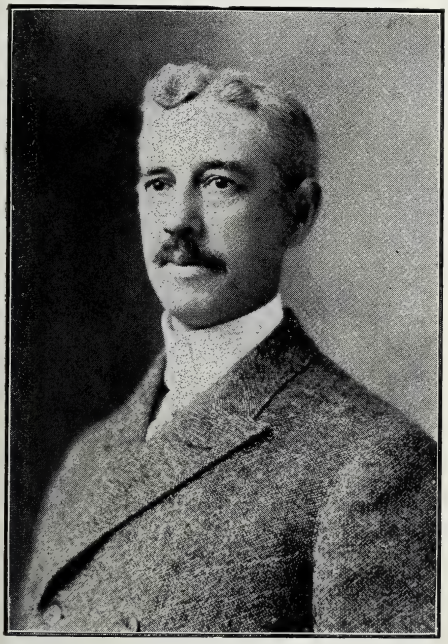


W. E. BLISS.

elaborate buckles. Among the other specimens of leather novelties made by this concern are chatelaines of different kinds of leather and great va-

riety of design, each style comprising all in one cluster, money purse, mirror, writing tablet with pencil attached, bon bon holder, vinaigrette, lip salve and powder box. These are also made in nickel silver.

Then there are vanity cases and other novelties too numerous to mention that are ornamented and beautified in the extreme by hand engravers who



C. E. POLSEY.

are necessarily employed in large numbers and who bring art into their work. From the fact that new novelties are constantly being added to the product of the factory it may be said that the catalogues of this company show more change every year than those of any other factory in Meriden; and in thus keeping in the lead in the trade the E. A. Bliss Company has earned the laurels it gracefully wears. Everything made at the factory calls for the highest skill of experienced hands; and the entire product is from the raw material. The different departments of the factory are perfect in their arrangements; and the plant is fitted for producing readily any article in the novelty line which the trade demands. Several traveling salesmen represent the E. A. Bliss Co. and call regularly upon the trade throughout the country. The show rooms are in the Lincoln Building, Union Square, New York City. The company is capitalized at $50,000, but its factory is valued far in excess of that amount. Its officers are men well known to the trade. E. A. Bliss, originally of New York state and formerly a resident of Meriden, but now of Jersey City, is the president. He is a typical New England manufacturer and makes trips abroad every year in interest of the business. He has ever possessed the faculty of foreseeing the advance wants of the market; and his taste in the choice of designs and ideas for the trade have been most important factors in the success of the concern of which he is the able head.

The New York headquarters, from which the output is handled, is in charge of W. E. Bliss, vice-president of the company.

The secretary and treasurer, C. E. Polsey, is a native of Pawtucket, R. I., and has been associated with the



SECTION OF THE E. A. BLISS FACTORY.



SECTION OF THE E. A. BLISS FACTORY.

concern from the beginning. He is a valued resident of Meriden and, like the other members of the concern, has shown an active interest in the growth and prosperity of the community.

The superintendent of the factory is M. H. Brown, who for seventeen years has been a resident of Meriden.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO.

The International Silver Company was organized under the laws of the state of New Jersey on November 19, 1898, with an authorized capital of $11,000,000 common, and $9,000,000 preferred stock, only a part of which was issued. The company immediately bought the total capital stock of the following companies from the various stockholders:

The Barbour Silver Co., Hartford; Holmes & Edwards Silver Co., Bridgeport; Manhattan Silver Plate Co., Lyons, N. Y.; Meriden Britannia Co., Meriden; Meriden Silver Plate Co., Meriden; Norwich Cutlery Co., Norwich; Wm. Rogers Mfg. Co., Hartford; Rogers Cutlery Co., Hartford; Rogers & Bro., Waterbury; Rogers & Hamilton Co., Waterbury; Wilcox Silver Plate Co., Meriden; Watrous Mfg. Co., Wallingford, and Standard Silver Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

During the first six months of 1899 the following companies were also purchased:

Derby Silver Co., Derby; Simpson, Hall, Miller & Co., Wallingford; Simpson Nickel Co., Wallingford, and Middletown Plate Co., Middletown.

During the same year these different companies were merged in the International Silver Company and ceased to exist as independent corporations, and the headquarters of the consolidated industry was established in what had been the office of Meriden Britannia Co., on State street, Meriden, although the building was considerably enlarged by the addition of two stories.

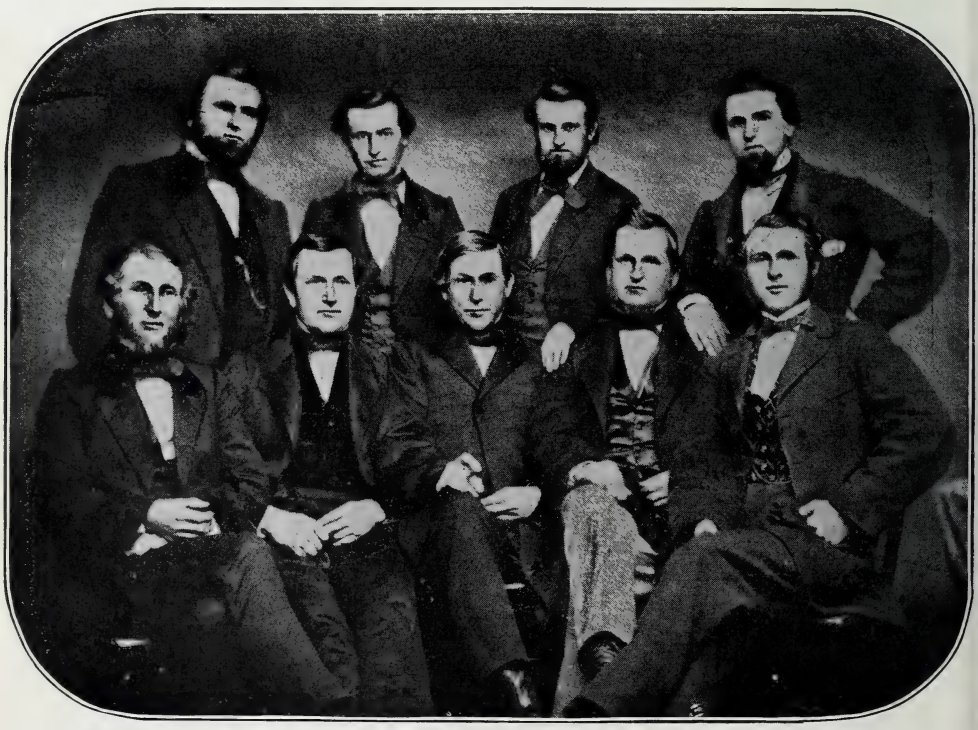
Various changes were made in the scheme of manufacturing, all of which were to the advantage of Meriden.

The production of goods bearing the trade mark of Meriden Silver Plate Company was removed to the factory of the Meriden Britannia Co. and the plant of the Barbour Silver Co. was moved from Hartford and installed in the factory made vacant by the previous change.

In January, 1903, the total capital stock of United States Silver Corporation was acquired which gave the company indirectly the ownership of C. Rogers & Bros., of Meriden, Conn. The business of this latter company was now replaced by that of Wm. Rogers Mfg. Co. and Rogers Cutlery Company of Hartford, which were removed from Hartford and are now installed in the factory on Butler street. With the exception of the Hartford factories mentioned and one in Middletown, one in Lyons, N. Y., and the Rogers & Hamilton factory in Waterbury all the various plants acquired by the International Silver

Co. are in full operation to-day. The officers of the company are:

Samuel Dodd, president; George H. Wilcox, first vice-president; George C. Edwards, second vice-president; Charles A. Hamilton, third vice-president; George M. Curtis, treasurer; George Rockwell, secretary.



H. C. Wilcox. I. C. Lewis. Geo. R. Curtis. D. C. Wilcox.
John Munson. L. J. Curtis. Samuel Simpson. W. W. Lyman. W. H. Johnson.

FOUNDERS OF THE MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO.
From a photo taken about 1852.

These officers with one exception are the same as were elected at the organization of the company. The late General Samuel Thomas, of New York, was elected treasurer when the company was organized, but was never actively connected with the company and resigned the office in July, 1900.

The directors of the company are Samuel Dodd, George H. Wilcox, George C. Edwards, Charles A. Hamilton, George M. Curtis, George Rockwell, C. H. Tibbits, Samuel L. Barbour, C. E. Breckenridge, C. Berry Peets, Fred P. Wilcox, Andrew Andrews and Watson J. Miller.

A brief sketch of this line of manufacture in Meriden previous to the formation of any of these companies,

follows, together with a short history of Meriden Britannia Co., Wilcox Silver Plate Co., Meriden Silver Plate Co. and C. Rogers & Bros., of Meriden.

MANUFACTURE OF BRITANNIA WARE PREVIOUS TO THE FORMATION OF MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO., 1852.

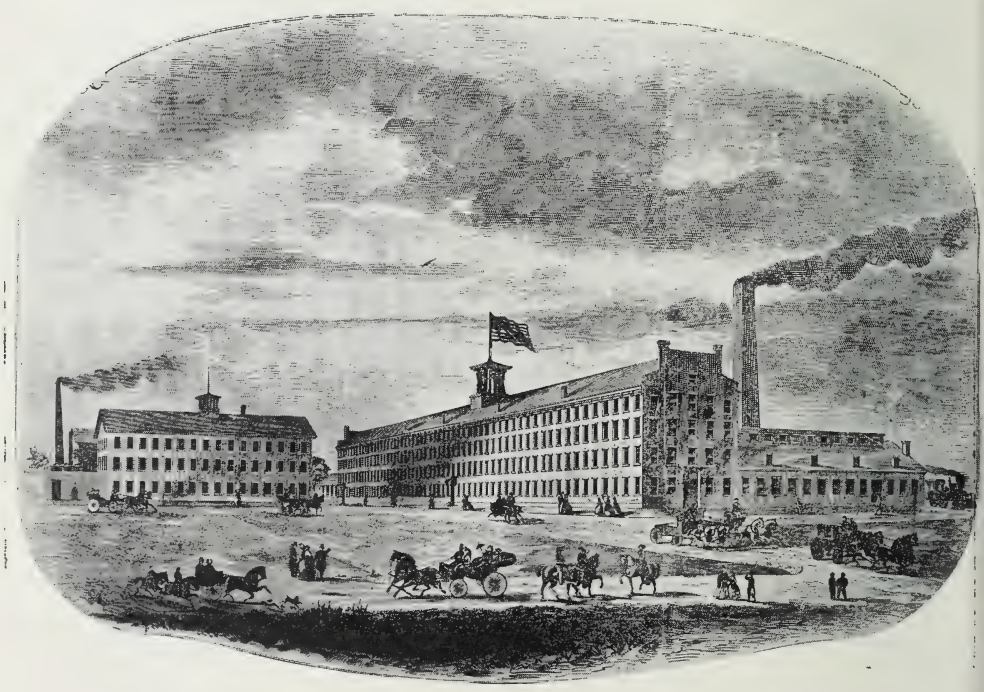
The manufacture of britannia ware is one of the oldest industries in this country, records showing that this ware was made in Boston during the latter half of the seventeenth century. The business was begun in this town about the year 1808, by Ashabel Griswold, or Squire Griswold, as he was familiarly known. He had learned the trade of Captain Danforth of Rocky Hill, this state, together with Mr. Boardman, who settled in Haddam, and Charles and Hiram Yale, who located in Wallingford. Mr. Griswold built the house, 50 Griswold street, now occupied by Mrs. Charles Collins. His shop stood south of the house, separated from it by a garden. As there is no stream at this point, he must have used, at the start, either hand or horse power. Here for a number of years he made britannia pots and tea and tablespoons. The pots were cast in two parts and then soldered together and the spouts and handles added in the same way. The pots, after soldering, were placed on a lathe and turned and polished, and a very good finish was given to the articles. It was not un-



Geo. H. Wilcox, Vice-President. Samuel Dodd, President. Geo. M. Curtis, Treasurer.

OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO.

til about the time the Meriden Britannia Co. was formed that pots, plates and cups were made by rolling the metal and then pressing it into shape by means of dies or forms. The articles formed by casting were susceptible of a high polish and presented quite an attractive appearance if properly cared for by the purchas-



MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO., IN 1863.

er. Table and tea spoons were cast and then scraped and burnished by hand if for table use, or sold rough for cooking purposes. The metal first used appears to have been a compound of tin and lead, or practically pewter, and would easily dent, and as the solder used was composed of lead and bismuth, which would melt

oftentimes, when poorly combined, at a low temperature, the effect of a handle or spout dropping off when in use at the table may be more easily imagined than described. A better composition was afterwards employed, made of tin, antimony and copper, which was much harder and retained a more pronounced luster. The output of such a factory as that of Mr. Griswold could not have been large. In 1830 he employed not more than ten or twelve men, and in examining his sales book at that time it is found that the total sales of one month did not exceed $2,500. The power used was furnished by an old blind horse traveling around a beam which com-

municated with the floor above. Among the articles disposed of by him were such as cloth of different kinds, glass tumblers, stockings, whips and yarns. These goods were undoubtedly taken by Mr. Griswold in exchange for his wares. His merchandise was sold mainly by peddlers, who penetrated to all parts of New England and frequently journeyed South. We learn of one such itinerant who returned with nothing but goose feathers in exchange for the wares he had taken out; but feathers were a valuable commodity in those days and undoubtedly the exchange was a profitable one for the peddler. Barter was the usual method of dealing, and as one of the early manufacturers expressed it recently, "Money was a mighty scarce article." As there were no railroads until 1838 if any shipments were made direct to purchasers at a distance, it was necessary to cart them to Middletown or New Haven and ship by boat. Tin was brought in the same way, and in the account book in question, mention is made of purchases of Spanish and India tin. The price paid was usually



FACTORY A, INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO. (MERIDEN SILVER PLATE CO.)

about seventeen cents per pound, the price to-day being about twenty-nine cents. The India tin was undoubtedly the same as that used in Meriden to-day, now called Straits of Malacca tin. Where the Spanish tin was mined cannot be learned, as only minor deposits of that metal occur in Spain and it has never been mined to any extent in that country. In 1837 there were also engaged in the same business James A. Frary, who afterwards had as partners a Mr. Couch and a Mr. Benham. Mr. Frary's factory stood about where the Malleable Iron shop is to-day located. I. C. Lewis was located in East Meriden, or Bangall, and had as partners, at different times, George Cowles and L. J. Curtis. He used water power, and at last steam power. Edwin E. Curtis was engaged in making spoons, and his factory stood near his house, 112 Curtis street, and at one time he had as a partner his brother, L. J. Curtis. Enos Curtis was also in the business and his factory was located in the north part of the town on what is now Britannia street. In 1837 Barber's Historical Collections for Connecticut, mentions, as engaged in the business in Meriden, four manufacturing britannia ware and three britannia, or block tin, spoons. Most of the manufacturers learned the trade in Wallingford where the Yales were actively engaged in the business. Isaac C. Lewis served his apprenticeship with the Yales and returned to Meriden soon after 1838 and went to work for Partrick Lewis, his brother, who had a shop back of Eli C. Birdsey's former store on the southeast corner of East Main and Broad streets (which has been taken down) and afterwards built a shop on the southwest corner of East Main and High streets, where Charles Parker afterwards lived. About 1833 I. C. Lewis left his brother and with George Cowles began the making of Britannia ware in Bangall in the east part of Meriden, where he continued, with various partners, until the formation of the Meriden Britannia Co. W. W. Lyman began business after an apprenticeship with Mr. Griswold in 1844. He had a shop near his house on Britannia street, and afterwards at the Twiss factory in Prattsville at the east end of Pratt's pond and later in the Frary factory near Colony street, where he continued until the Meriden Britannia Co. was formed. L. J. Curtis learned his trade in Wallingford of the Yales, and afterwards was in partnership with I. .C Lewis, E. E. Curtis and W. W. Lyman. With the latter he remained until the formation of the Meriden Britannia Co. which was consummated by the union of the Lewis-Curtis and Lyman-James A. Frary & Co. interests of Meriden and John Munson, of Wallingford, together with H. C. and D. C. Wilcox who, under the firm name of H. C. Wilcox & Co., had disposed of most of the products of the various companies. Besides those already mentioned, in Perkins' History of Meriden, published in 1849, occur the

names of the following as engaged in the manufacture of britannia ware: Charles Parker, S. L. Cone with four hands, L. G. Baldwin, five hands. In the same history I. C. Lewis is mentioned as employing eight hands, but Mr. Lewis, a few weeks before his death, told Geo. M. Curtis that at the time the Meriden Britannia Co. was formed, in 1852, he employed about forty hands. From this one would judge that the figures in Perkins' History were not entirely trustworthy. Mr. Lewis also stated that in the forties twelve hours constituted the ordinary day's work, except in winter when the number of hours was somewhat less. The men were not paid regularly, but took orders on stores instead of cash in payment of wages, and the merchants were paid in manufactured goods. In the winter when light was needed it was furnished by whale oil lamps. Apprentices were not indentured usually. To learn the trade, took generally five years, boys beginning at from twelve to fifteen years of age, and going to school during the winter months. In 1830 wages were from 75 cents to $1.00 per day; in the forties $1.00 to $1.50 per day, and in 1852 about $2.00 per day was earned by the most skillful workmen. The prices per pound of various metals compare as follows:

	1830	1895
Spelter or zinc	$ .05	$ .06
Antimony	.23	.14
Lead	.05	.046
Copper	.17	.18
Tin	.17	.30

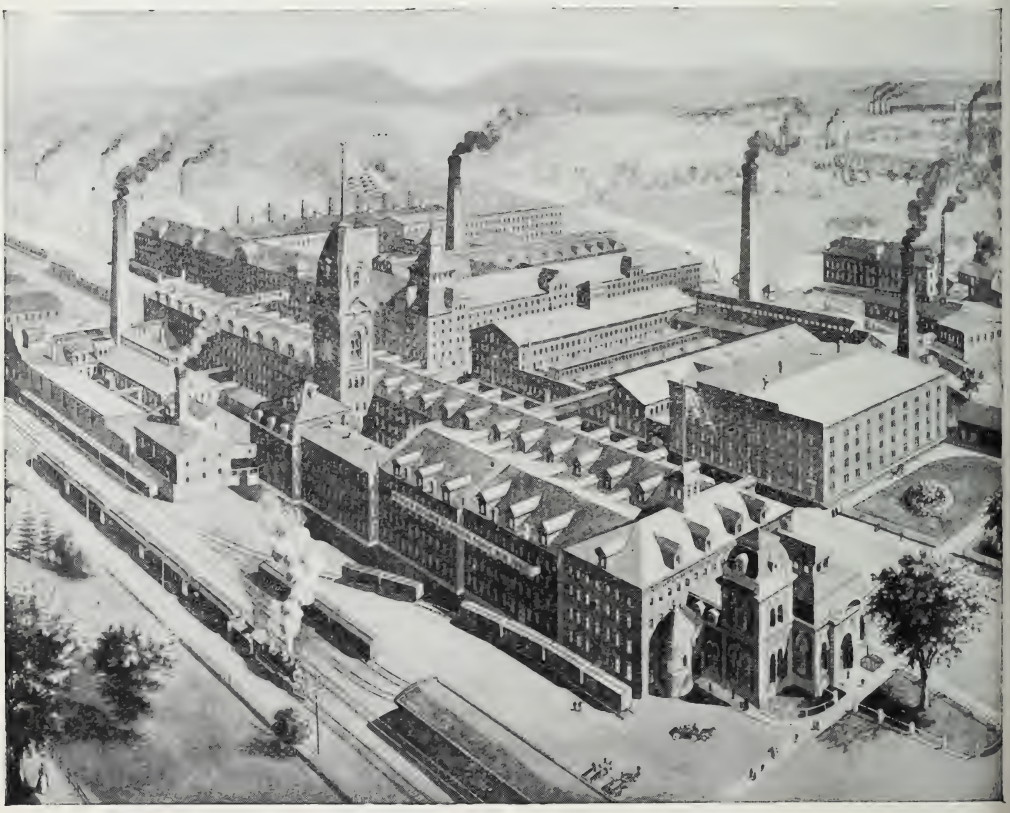
By 1850 the variety of articles manufactured had considerably increased. Among the output were found such articles as cuspidors, cups, soup ladles, sugars and cream pitchers, candlesticks, caster frames, fluid lamps, mugs and dippers.

MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO.

The Meriden Britannia Co. was organized under the joint stock laws of the state of Connecticut, on the 16th day of December, 1852, with a capital stock of $50,000, subscribed by the following gentlemen: I. C. Lewis, H. C. Wilcox, D. C. Wilcox, James A. Frary, Lemuel J. Curtis, W. W. Lyman, of Meriden, and John Munson, of Wallingford. The following officers were elected: I. C. Lewis, president, and H. C. Wilcox, secretary and treasurer. As already stated, the manufacture of britannia ware was begun in Meriden about the year 1808, by Ashabel Griswold. Subsequently, others engaged in the business, and by 1850, there were several firms engaged in the manufacture of this ware in Meriden, the principal being James A. Frary & Co., I. C. Lewis & Co. and Curtis & Lyman. There had also been formed a partnership by two brothers, Horace C. and D. C. Wilcox under the firm name of H. C. Wilcox & Co., and most of the product of the different factories was marketed by this firm. In order to control competition, reduce expenses and bring the management of affairs under one head, the Meriden Britannia Co. was formed. Into this union

was also incorporated the business of John Munson, who was at this time manufacturing in Wallingford.

The business was now confined to the Frary shop in the north part of the town, the Lewis factory in the east, and the Munson factory in Wallingford, the offices being at No. 2 West Main street in Meriden, in the building now occupied by the Griswold, Richmond & Glock Co. At the formation of the company, all articles were cast in moulds and electro-plating was not used, but in 1854 began the rolling of metals and the subsequent formation by spinning and stamping. Shortly after, plating was adopted, and in 1856 a large plating factory was built on State street, the first of their large collection of shops in this vicinity. The output during these first years consisted of such articles as tea and coffee-pots, bitter tubes, candlesticks, cups, tea and tablespoons, dinner casters, fluid lamps, cuspidors, sewing birds, etc.,



FACTORY E, INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO. (MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO.)

and, as their utility was duly appreciated by the public, as was shown by the rapidly increasing trade of the company, the number and variety of wares were constantly increased. By 1855, they had begun the output of nickel silver forks and spoons, heavily plated, and subsequently they secured the services of the famous Rogers brothers, under whose supervision these goods were produced. The honesty and skill of manufacture and beauty of design account for the rapid increase of this business, and to-day the reputation of their trade-mark ("1847 Rogers Bros.") on forks, spoons and knives is world-wide, and goods bearing this stamp will invariably bring a higher price in the market than any other brand. The business of the company had grown so large by 1863 that the factory on the west side of State street, over five hundred feet long, was erected (ground being broken on the first day of the battle of Gettysburg) and the other factories in Meriden and Wallingford were abandoned. Their wares were now being sold all over the United States, and exported to many foreign countries, notably to South America, where a large and profitable trade was built up, so that a few years later it was necessary to send a representative to that continent to look after the various interests of the company, which connection has been since maintained.

A New York depot or salesroom was established during the early years of the business in connection with another company, but in 1863 they established their own warerooms at 199 Broadway, and shortly afterward the secretary of the company, D. C. Wilcox, moved to New York to give the business his personal supervision. By 1866 they had also established an agency on the Pacific coast under the care of W. P. Morgan, and a few years later a store was opened in Chicago, under the charge of A. L. Sercomb, and an agency was established in London. By this time, their wares had materially changed in styles and quality. No britannia was now made, the base metal of all products being either what is called white metal or nickel silver, which is as durable and susceptible of as high a finish as solid silver. Many articles were being produced of a highly ornamental nature, and artistic in design. In 1881, another large factory was built on the corner of Miller and State streets in Meriden, and the same year a branch factory was established in Hamilton, Ontario, which developed at once into a prosperous business. A few years later, a new plating shop was built in Meriden, to be used exclusively for plating forks, spoons and knives, and it is to-day the most complete and extensive plating factory in the country. During these years, and since, many additions and extensions to the factories were built, about which no special mention has been made. The wares to-day are sold in almost every country of the civilized world.

The number of different articles

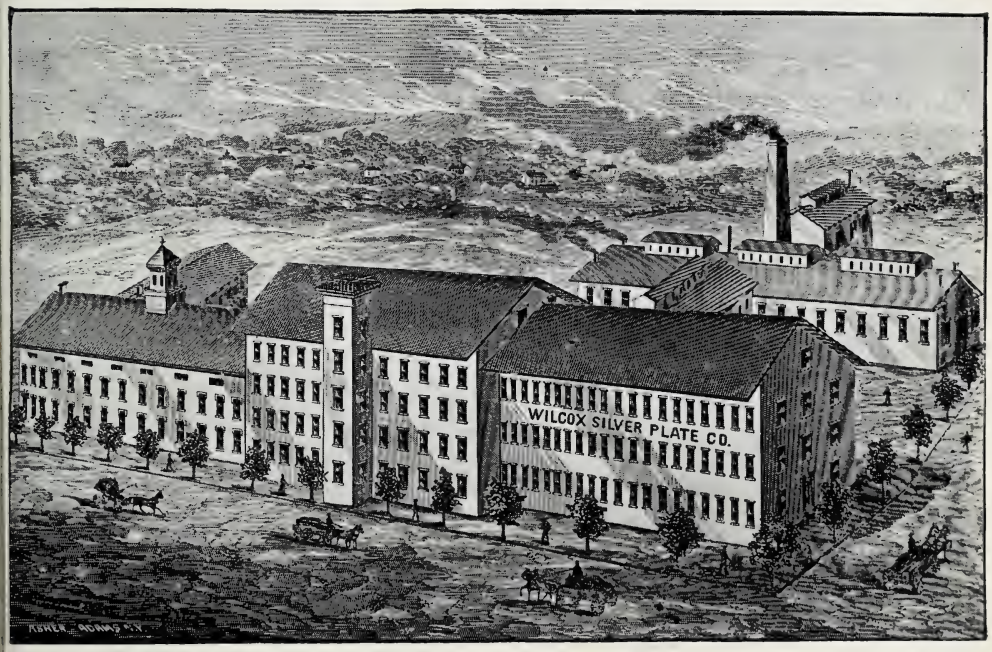
produced is bewildering in its variety; they comprise not only those for table use, but embrace a large number for toilet use as well. The fact that an article bears the trademark of the Meriden Britannia Co. is considered the country over as a guarantee of standard quality and honest manufacture. The company in 1895 went extensively into the production of sterling silverware, and this department to-day produces a very important part of the output. In 1876, the company made a brilliant display of its productions at the Centennial exhibition in Philadelphia, and repeated it on a still more elaborate scale at the Columbian fair of Chicago, in 1893. They exhibited in Paris in 1899, and have made displays at numerous minor exhibitions and fairs, and they have invariably been given the highest awards in recognition of their achievements. Their salesrooms in New York were removed from 199 to 550 Broadway, and subsequently to 46 East Fourteeenth street, on Union Square, and a few years ago were moved to 208 Fifth avenue, on Madison Square, and thence to 218 Fifth avenue. The company also acquired large interests in other manufacturing corporations. The capital stock of the Meriden Britannia Company at its organization in 1852, was $50,000; in 1854, was increased to $60,000; again, in 1857, to $100,000; in 1860, it was made $200,000; in 1863, $250,000; in 1866, $550,000, and in 1879 it was increased to $1,100,000, where it remained. As stated already, the officers elected at the organization were I. C. Lewis, president, and H. C. Wilcox, secretary and treasurer, but a few days later Mr. Wilcox resigned the office of treasurer, and George R. Curtis, who had been the teller in the Meriden bank, was elected treasurer in his place, and continued to hold the office until his death in 1893.

In 1865 H. C. Wilcox resigned the office of secretary and D. C. Wilcox was elected in his place and continued in the office until his death in 1886. In 1866 Mr. Lewis resigned the office of president and Mr. H. C. Wilcox was elected in his place and continued to hold this office until his death in 1890. At his death I. C. Lewis who had served in that capacity, was re-elected and held the position until his death in 1893 when George H. Wilcox was elected. The officers in charge at the time the Meriden Britannia Company was merged into the International Silver Company were: George H. Wilcox, president; F. P. Wilcox, vice-president; George M. Curtis, treasurer, and George Rockwell, secretary. The directors were: D. B. Hamilton, Waterbury; George H. Wilcox, George Rockwell and George M. Curtis, of Meriden; F. P. Wilcox, New York City; C. Berry Peets, New Haven; J. M. Harmon, Meriden; Henry J. Lewis, Stratford, and G. P. Davis, Hartford.

WILCOX SILVER PLATE CO.

The great success of the Meriden Britannia Co., when viewed in the

light of its humble beginnings in 1852, induced several gentlemen in the year 1865 to establish another company to engage in manufacturing the same general class of goods. The war was over, a period of great expansion and prosperity had developed during those critical years and there seemed no reason to believe that the period



WILCOX SILVER PLATE CO. IN 1865.

of growth was at an end. Most prominently identified with the new company called the Wilcox Britannia Co., was Jedediah Wilcox who had been very successful in the woolen business and whose resourceful energy led him to believe that the new company would be as profitable as its older rival. The Wilcox Britannia Co. was organized in December, 1865, with a capital of $150,000, and the officers elected were Jedediah Wilcox, president; and C. H. Collins, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors included such additional names as Aaron L. Collins, Charles Parker, Levi E. Coe, George W. Lyon and H. H. Miller. The factory of J. Wilcox & Co., woolen manufacturers, had been destroyed by fire during the year and the brick building now occupied by the Meriden Woolen Co. on the north side of Pratt street had been recently erected. The Wilcox Britannia Co. immediately after its organization, proceeded to erect a wooden building on the site of the

burned factory at the corner of Pratt and Myrtle streets, and were soon busily engaged in manufacturing silver plated ware. During the year 1867 the name of the company was changed to the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., and the capital stock was increased to $200,000, and at the same time Mr. Wilcox, finding that his woolen business gave him little time to attend to the affairs of the new company, resigned its presidency and A. L. Collins was elected as his successor. The capital was again increased, this time to $250,000. In 1869 quite a change in the list of directors took place and we find the following board was elected: A. L. Collins, I. C. Lewis, Charles Parker, H. C. Wilcox, E. A. Mitchell, George W. Lyon and George R. Curtis and the capital stock was increased to $370,000. In 1868 a company had been formed called the Parker & Casper Co., which built and occupied what is now the larger half of the western part of Manning, Bowman & Co.'s factory. Samuel Dodd, who for more than ten years had been the cashier of the Home National bank, had, when the Parker & Casper Co. was formed, become its financial manager. But its period of existence was short; for it was absorbed in 1869 by the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. and Mr. Dodd was elected secretary and treasurer of the consolidated company and really its manager; for Mr. Collins, while still holding the office of president, gradually withdrew from active management. The company soon entered on a period of great prosperity. Its wares became well and favorably known all over this and many foreign countries. The management was conservative and yet enterprising. The wares made were confined mostly to what is known as plated hollow ware although quite a business was done in cut glass as well. The beauty of design was a marked feature of the goods made by this company. Mr. Dodd had drawn around him a corps of well trained and efficient helpers, notably P. S. Pelton, for many years superintendent, succeeded some years later by Lewis Hall; also Henry B. Beach as a salesman, and C. E. Breckenridge first as a salesman and then as manager of the New York salesroom. In 1882 the large brick addition to the northeast wing was added to accommodate the rapidly growing business, while during other years there were various other additions of minor importance added. There were scarcely any changes among officers or directors during the last thirty years of the company's existence except as caused by death. At the time the company was absorbed by the International Silver Co., in 1899, the officers were as follows: A. L. Collins, president; Samuel Dodd, secretary and treasurer; George E. Flint, assistant treasurer; Lewis Hall, superintendent. The directors were: A. L. Collins, Charles Parker, George H. Wilcox, Samuel Dodd, George M. Curtis, H. B. Beach, Geo. W. Lyon, Lewis Hall and George E. Flint.

MERIDEN SILVER PLATE CO.

When the Parker & Casper Co. was bought out by the Wilcox Silver Plate Co. in 1869 Charles Casper immediately organized the Meriden Silver Plate Co., under the joint stock laws of the state of Connecticut. The organization papers bear the date of January 3, 1879, and Mr. Casper's associates were Isaac H. Cornwall, William E. A. Bird and William R. Mackay. The capital stock was $30,000 and the directors were Charles Casper, William R. Mackay and Isaac H. Cornwall, who were elected president, secretary and treasurer, respectively. The company bought the old factory property of J. H. Canfield & Co. at the corner of Colony and Cross streets, and running through to South George street, on January 24, 1870, and proceeded at once to the manufacture of silver plated ware. From the start the company was prosperous and the following year it was found necessary to increase the capital stock to $40,000. This increase was taken by A. C. Markham, who was elected a director in 1872. Subsequently H. Wales Lines became connected with the company and was for a short time its secretary and treasurer. In 1873 Robert H. Curtis was elected to the position of secretary and treasurer. About the same time the Meriden Britannia Co. acquired a block of the stock and thenceforth there were two or three representatives from that company on the board of directors. In the year 1880 the brick addition containing the office and large additional factory room on Colony street was erected to accommodate the expanding business of the company. In 1887 Charles Casper disposed of his stock and resigned from the company and George R. Curtis was elected president as his successor in 1888, but was not actively connected with the company, and at his death in 1893, Robert H. Curtis was elected to fill the position, but resigned from the board in 1895. The directors at the time the company was merged with the International Silver Co., were: Benjamin Page, George H. Wilcox, William R. Mackay, W. W. Mosher, George M. Curtis, F. H. Cushing and the officers: George M. Curtis, president; F. H. Cushing, secretary and treasurer; William R. Mackay, superintendent and assistant treasurer.

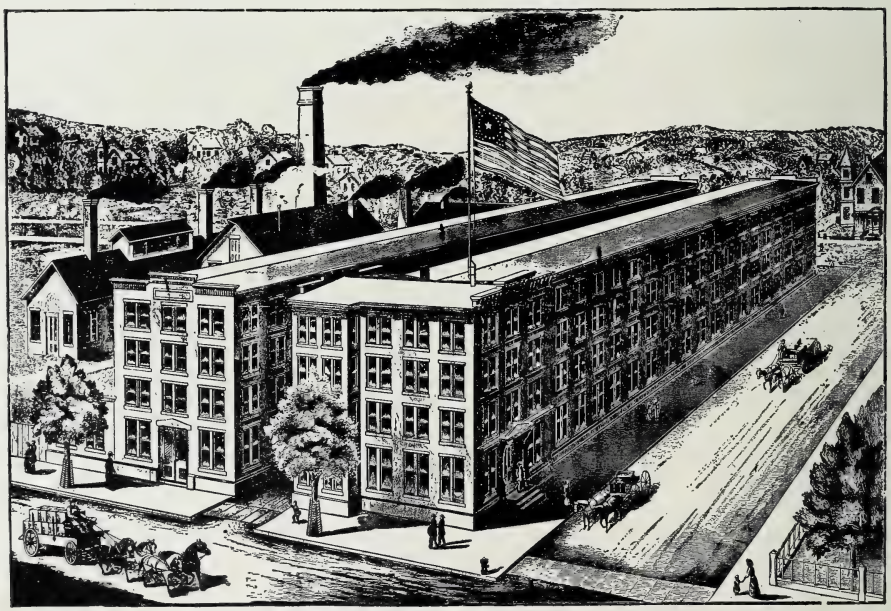
C. ROGERS & BROS.

The firm of C. Rogers & Bros. was formed in 1866 and located on Butler street, south of Main street, where a factory was built and the manufacture of casket hardware, shrouds, etc., was carried on. Some years later the firm began the making of plated forks, spoons, knives, etc., and quite a flourishing business was built up. In 1899 the business was incorporated with the name of C. Rogers & Bros. of Meriden, Conn., under the laws of the state of New Jersey and later under the laws of Connecticut. In 1902 the capital stock was purchased by the United States Silver Corporation and when the International Silver Co. pur-

chased this company they, of course, obtained control of C. Rogers & Bros. of Meriden. The old officers were: C. B. Rogers, president; N. B. Rogers, vice-president; Gilbert Rogers, treasurer; Wilbur F. Rogers, secretary; Dan Fellows Platt, assistant treasurer. The directors were: Arthur Baldwin, N. B. Rogers, Gilbert Rogers, Dan Fellows Platt, Cephas B. Rogers, Wilbur F. Rogers and George F. Rogers.

As soon as the International Silver Co. obtained control these officers and directors all resigned and a new board was elected consisting of Samuel Dodd, George H. Wilcox, George D. Munson, George Rockwell, C. H. Tibbits, S. L. Barbour and G. M. Curtis. This board of directors subsequently elected George H. Wilcox, president, and George M. Curtis, secretary and treasurer.

The factory was then leased to the International Silver Co., and this company then installed in it the business of Wm. Rogers Mfg. Co., and Rogers Cutlery Co., of Hartford, as has already been stated.



FACTORY H, INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO. (FORMERLY C. ROGERS & BROS.)

THE CHARLES PARKER CO.

The history of this large and diversified manufacturing concern up to within a comparatively few years was the history of its founder, Charles

Parker, a pioneer hardware manufacturer of the country, and whose death, as stated elsewhere, occurred when he had attained the remarkable age of ninety-three. For some years previous to his death, however, the business was conducted by his two sons, Dexter W. and Charles E., and by his son-in-law, W. H. Lyon. The business which was established in 1832 has added materially to the welfare of the town of Meriden; for almost entirely within the borders of the town has the industry always been carried on.

The product has always added fame to Meriden, for the articles made are used in all the four quarters of the globe; and the name of Charles Parker has become recognized throughout the world as a synonym for the most popular goods, having best values not only in one line but applying also to every article produced by the company.

On a portion of the land between Elm and High streets, where the main factory buildings and office headquarters of the concern are now situated, Charles Parker built a stone shop and in 1832 began the manufacture of coffee mills.

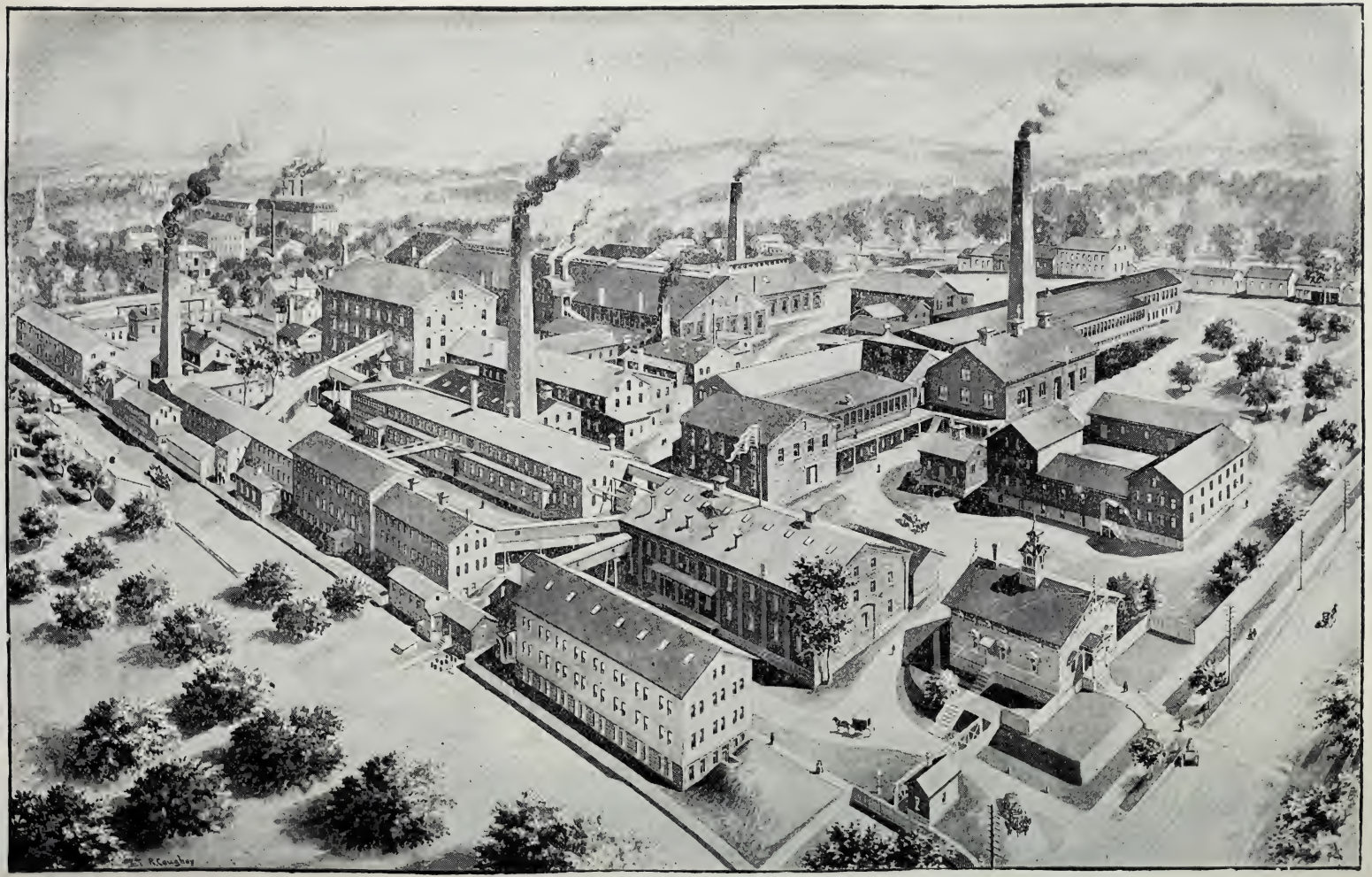
His motive power was a blind horse, who propelled a pole sweep, which, hour after hour, and day after day, plodded around in a circle in the rear of the east end of what is now the vise shop; which was the only power of the factory until 1844, when the steam power introduced at the factory by Mr. Parker was the first used in Meriden.

With the previous experience in the manufacture of coffee mills as a contractor for Lewis & Holt, and with a very limited capital which he had saved from his previous small earnings, Mr. Parker laid the foundation of the industry which now covers over fifteen acres and requires four engines of combined capacity of 500 horse power and twenty boilers aggregating about 2,000 horse-power; and in addition to that a liberal supply of water power at the factories at East Meriden and Yalesville.

At first Mr. Parker not only made but sold his own goods; and it was his wont to make up stock, then wait upon the trade in person until he had disposed of it. The practice of first receiving advance orders did not come into vogue until some years later.

In the early days traveling great distances was a slow proceeding and the stage coach and canal boat were necessarily patronized by him. He made extended trips twice a year and upon one occasion he received an order which took two years for the factory to make up.

For a few years, beginning 1833, his brother, Edmund Parker, and Heman White were associated with him as partners, and the firm was known as Parker & White. During this partnership the business had many trials and reverses; but none ever affected the financial standing of Charles Parker, for never during the history of the business was his credit compromised. His brother retired in 1843 and Mr. White the year following.



MAIN WORKS OF THE CHARLES PARKER CO.

Mr. Parker, a few years after, added to his product that of plated spoons and forks, and was the first manufacturer in Meriden of plated hollow ware, at what is known by Meridenites as the Parker "Spoon Shop," which has always been operated by water power supplied from Black pond, which body of water the company still controls. The output of this branch factory now comprises a portion of the company's lamp product, and steel spoons, forks, knives, etc. The capacity of the factory is very large and the goods are in great demand in the South and West and are also exported to a considerable extent.

Although the manufacture of the Parker spectacles, which were extensively used years ago, has been discontinued, practically every other article which was ever added to the large product is still being made, and the variety and volume of the output is added to every year.

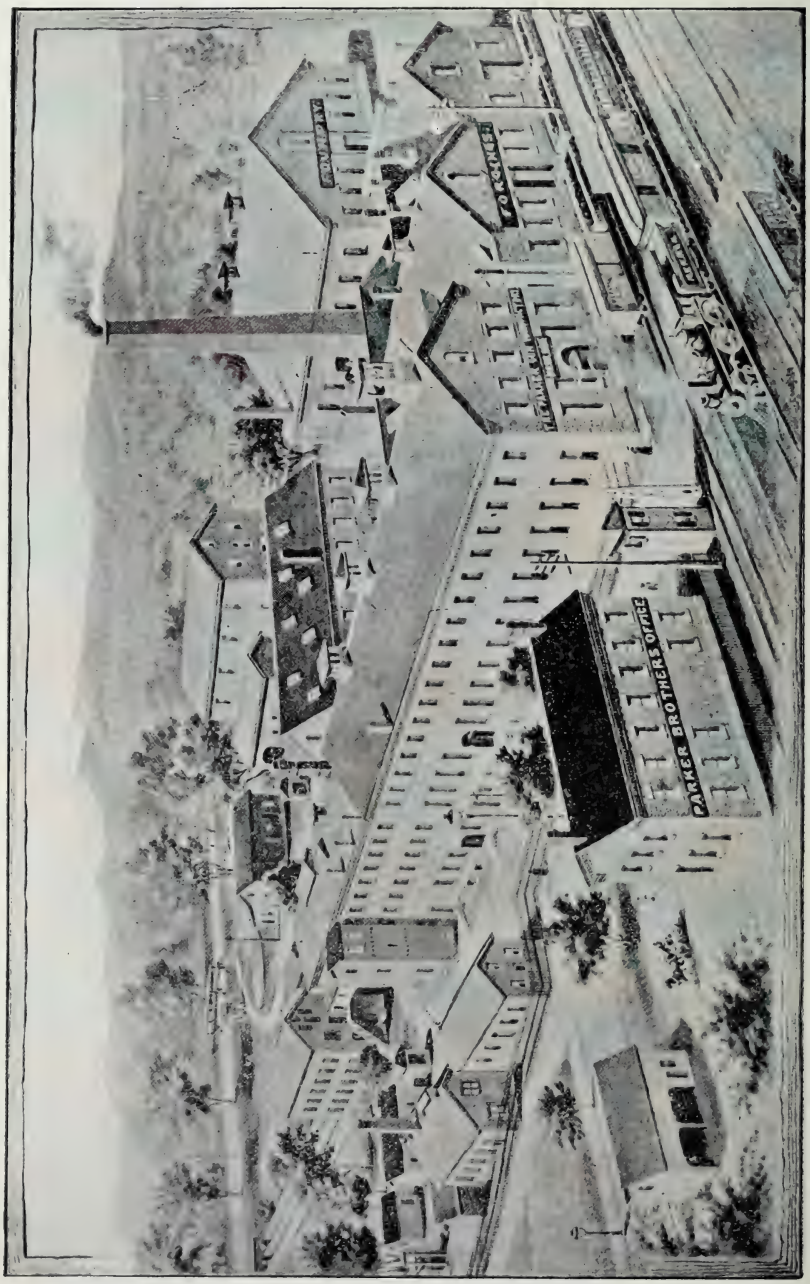
The Parker coffee mills, made in fully one hundred sizes and styles, have now been on the market for practically three-quarters of a century; and the demand for them is greater than ever. These mills have been, and doubtless always will be in demand by the trade, the only difference being that when they were first made they were sold by the small peddler and now are shipped in carload lots to the large jobbers of this and foreign countries.

In the early days, in a factory which stood on the opposite side of the road, but some distance farther west than that now known as the Parker Clock factory, where a full line of nickel alarm clocks is produced, the making of locks and builders' hardware was pursued. This old factory, which has long since been torn down, once stood on land which was given to the city by the Parker Company and now comprises eight acres of Hubbard Park. This branch of the industry was discontinued some years ago.

The factory where the "Parker" guns are made is situated some distance from the main factory of the Charles Parker Company and employs necessarily the highest skilled workmen. The Parker shot gun, which for many years has been recognized all over the world as the best made and most accurate on the market, has since the time of the Civil war, been made under the name of Parker Bros.

The first improved gun which has since won unstinted praise from true sportsmen, cost a sum equal to a large fortune; but Mr. Parker accomplished what he had determined to do and which Parker Brothers still continue to do, that of making in large quantities the celebrated Parker shot gun, which proved to be all that the founder of the company could most fondly desire.

For more than sixty years the Parker vise, originally patented in 1854, has been made at the main factory and the demand for the same has been increasing ever since that date. The vise, like many of the other products of this company, is made from the raw material in large quantities.



GUN WORKS OF PARKER BROTHERS.

The Parker vise occupies the highest place, not only in the minds of the dealers, but is known in all trades as the best tool of its kind procurable. The line comprises about one hundred and fifty sizes and kinds, which are adapted for the uses of locomotive works, car builders, machinists, guns, sewing machines, automobile and carriage manufacturers, jewelers and artisans generally.

The Charles Parker Company are the oldest and largest manufacturers of these vises and also of coffee mills in the country. At the main factory are also produced miscellaneous goods including a complete line of brass, bronze and steel wood screws; also lamps in all varieties and of the highest grade and most pleasing design; gas and electric portables and a complete line of lavatory and bath room fittings.

There, too, the piano stools and coffee mills are assembled and finished, the wood work of which is carried on at the factory at Yalesville.

It is a fact that The Charles Parker Co. manufacture more piano stools, benches, music racks and cabinets than any other one concern in the world. In conjunction with this department the company also manufacture a line of piano scarfs and covers of infinite variety.

Until 1905 the Charles Parker Company also owned and operated the plant known as the Meriden Curtain Fixture Company, the largest factory of its kind in the world and employing 500 hands, the product of which comprises window shades, shade rollers and fringes. This business is now consolidated with other manufacturers of similar goods and is known as the Columbia Shade Cloth Co.

The Charles Parker Company became incorporated in 1876 with a capital stock of $500,000, and like the Parker Clock Company, which it controls, is a close corporation. The first officers were Charles Parker, president; Dexter W. Parker, secretary and treasurer, and Charles E. Parker, vice president. Since the death of Charles Parker, his son, Dexter W., has served as president; Wilbur F. Parker, vice-president, and William H. Lyon, secretary and treasurer.

The Parker Clock Company, which was incorporated June 12, 1893, has the following officers: William H. Lyon, president and treasurer, and James F. Allen, secretary.

The several industries carried on by the Charles Parker Company give steady employment to about fifteen hundred well-paid hands; and its business for three-quarters of a century has added greatly to the prosperity of the town.

Many of the men in the employ of the company have grown up in the business and achieved prominence in the community. Fortunate, indeed, are those in its employ; for they who have shown a disposition to give their best services to the concern have had their efforts recognized and rewarded in every reasonable degree. Especially is this true of the traveling salesmen, about a score in number,

who cover every state in the union, calling upon the large jobbers of the country and remaining away from the factory many weeks at a time on their trips in the interest of the concern. The New York salesrooms are at 32 Warren street.

Since the death of Charles Parker the general management of the business has devolved upon his son-in-law, William H. Lyon, who has been associated with the concern for many years. He, like the other officers of the company, is a kind and considerate employer and a man of rare business attainments and great energy.

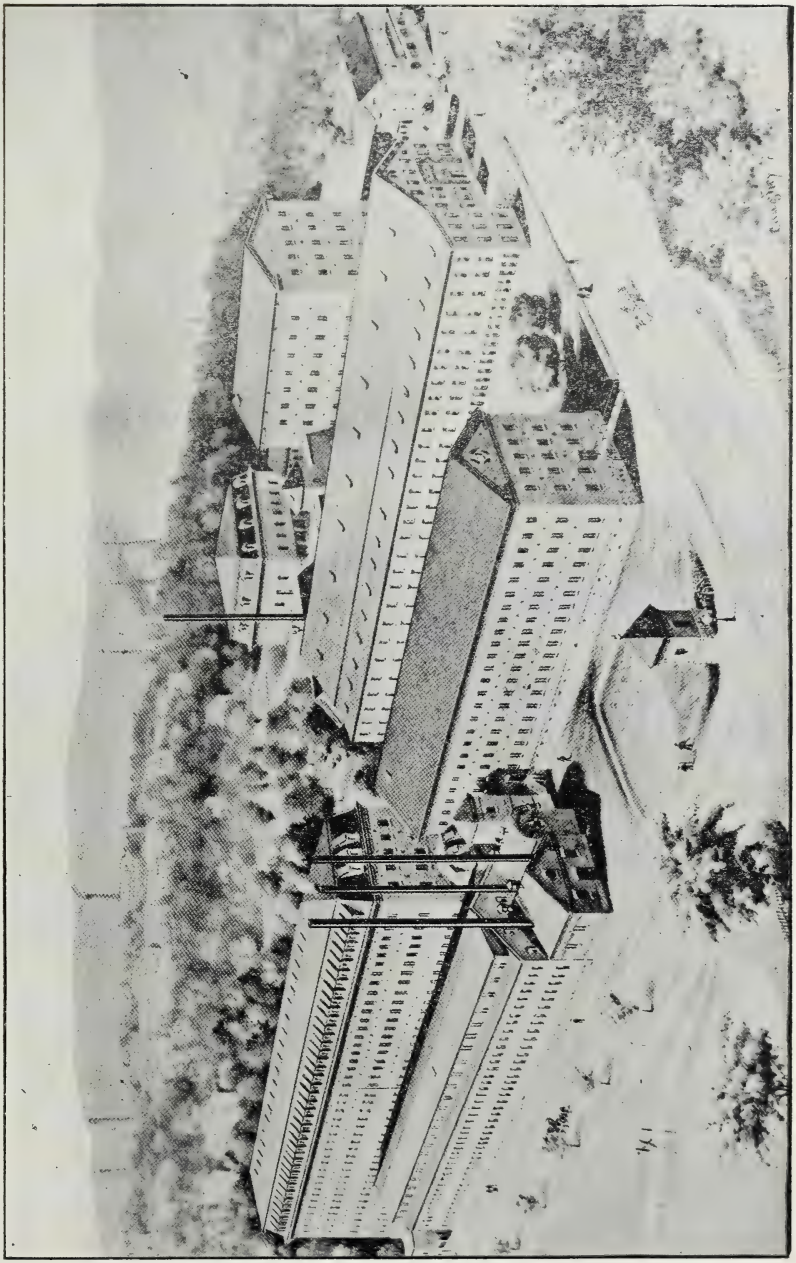
THE MERIDEN CURTAIN FIXTURE CO.

An industry grown from a small beginning to one of magnitude is that of The Meriden Curtain Fixture Co., the works of which cover several acres and furnish employment at the present day to several hundred hands. The product, window shades and shade cloth of all grades, sold through the Columbia Shade Cloth Company at New York, contrasts strongly with the modest output when the business was first started in a portion of the old Methodist church on Broad street.

At that time shade rollers only were made, and but a few hands were employed. The business increased and the quarters were enlarged by utilizing the whole of the old church and by the addition of another building. About 1891 it was found necessary to further enlarge the factory, and the company did so by occupying a portion of the present large plant on Charles street. This enabled the company to engage in the manufacture of fringes for their shades, the cloth for which was bought prepared to be made up. Later the company desiring to go into the manufacture of cloths, as well as rollers and fringes, decided to make another addition to the plant, and at that time the present five-story brick structure, 40 x 258 feet in dimensions, was built. Still later another grade was added to the output, and a second building, 52 x 182 feet, and three stories in height was erected on the company's property.

The goods made by the company are highly creditable to Meriden and the business always has been conducted largely with Meriden capital. The plant is equipped with modern machinery; an artesian well furnishes an abundant water supply for various purposes, and four mammoth steam boilers furnish not only motive power but also sufficient for generating electricity for lighting the factory.

The company is capitalized at $400,000. Its officers are Wilbur F. Parker, president; W. H. Lyon, vice-president; S. G. Wilkins, secretary; W. R. Hees, treasurer; T. D. McChesney, general manager; and Irving G. Cooley, manager. The president, vice-president and manager are all well known residents of Meriden. Mr. Parker was manager for a period of seven years, prior to associating himself exclusively with the Chas. Parker Co., of which he is now vice-



FACTORY OF THE MERIDEN CURTAIN FIXTURE CO.

president. Mr. Lyon, the vice-president is also the treasurer and general manager of the Chas. Parker Co. Mr. Cooley, who became manager January 1, 1906, has been engaged with the Curtain Fixture Co. since 1895.

THE MILLER BROTHERS CUTLERY CO.

Conspicuous among the products which have made Meriden famous the world over is cutlery, and for nearly half a century The Miller Brothers Cutlery Company has been recognized as one of the important factors in the manufacturing life of the city. The business was established soon after the close of the Civil war; and for a few years the factory was located in Yalesville. It soon became necessary to seek larger and more accessible quarters, and the site of the present factory in Meriden was purchased from Pratt, Read & Company, comb manufacturers. This site has been longer used for manufacturing purposes than any other in the town, dating back to the firm of Howard, Pratt & Co., in 1822.

In 1878, the present Miller Brothers Cutlery Company was organized by Messrs. Lemuel J. Curtis, Isaac C. Lewis, William F. Rockwell, Charles L. Rockwell and George W. Lyon. This new company took over the entire business of the old company of the same name. Mr. Curtis was the first president, with William F. Rockwell as treasurer and general manager. On the death of Mr. Curtis, Mr. Lewis became president and served until his own death in 1893, being succeeded by William F. Rockwell as president and treasurer.

In its early days, the American pocket knife industry had a hard road to travel. Apart from the keen domestic competition, it was ground between the flood of the cheap German commodity on the one hand, and the English product with its reputation of centuries on the other. One concern after another was forced to the wall, and hundreds of thousands of dollars were lost in the struggle. The ultimate success, not only of his own company, but of the industry itself, was very largely due to the great ability and untiring energy of William F. Rockwell. His absolute knowledge of the business and exceptional mathematical ability made it possible for him to demonstrate to the framers of successive tariff legislation the imperative necessity of protection to the industry; and it was this protection that made it possible for the American manufacturer to produce to-day a pocket knife that is the equal if not the superior of any other knife made.

In 1882, the manufacture of Miller Bros. steel pens was begun. The first makers of pens in this country were Harrison & Bradford, their factory being located in Mount Vernon, New York. The Miller Brothers Cutlery Company bought the mechanical equipment of their plant and engaged Mr. Bradford as superintendent of the new department. In the manufacture of these delicate articles,



From a drawing by Douglas.

FACTORY OF THE MILLER BROS. CUTLERY CO.



CHARLES F. ROCKWELL.

Miller Bros. have been as successful as with their cutlery, and both lines are large factors in advertising their home city.

From a small factory with few employees to the large, modern plant giving daily employment to three hundred or more people, is the best indication of the wisdom with which the affairs of the company have been managed. The entire energy of the management is concentrated on the three lines manufactured (pocket cutlery, steel ink erasers and steel pens) and every detail is given the most careful consideration.

On the death of William F. Rockwell in 1901, Charles L. Rockwell became president, and Charles F. Rockwell treasurer and general manager, succeeding his father in the active administration of the company. Harry A. Stevens is secretary.

CONNECTICUT TRAP ROCK QUARRIES, INC.

Meriden is the center of the crushed stone industry of the state of Connecticut and here the business of quarrying and crushing stone for shipment by rail was inaugurated.

In 1879 Carpenter Bros., of Port Chester, N. Y., secured a contract from the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., to quarry and crush trap rock for ballasting its road bed. This was the first railroad crushing plant in New England and was operated by the Carpenters for several years solely on ballast, the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co. taking the entire product.

In 1890 John S Lane, then of Hartford, conceived the idea of establishing a crushing plant to supply a small but growing demand for trap rock for macadam and concrete in the cities and towns reached by the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Carpenter Bros. had completed their contract and abandoned their quarry and Mr. Lane's attention was naturally drawn to the opportunities offered here for such a business. Early in 1890 he leased from Bartholomew & Coe the land adjoining the Carpenter quarry, opened another quarry and erected suitable machinery for crushing. This was the foundation, and to John S. Lane is the credit due, of the first commercial stone crushing plant in the New England states, although similar plants had been established on the Hudson river some years previous. The business grew rapidly from the start, not only along the lines which Mr. Lane originally had in view, but the four tracking of the New York division of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. about 1893 made a demand for immense quantities of railroad ballast also. This called for frequent additions to the plant and eventually the acquirement of the quarry Carpenter Bros. had formerly used.

In 1891 Arthur S. Lane was taken into partnership and the firm of John S. Lane & Son was established. In the course of a few years similar plants, all within a radius of fifteen



PART OF MAIN QUARRY.



CRUSHER SHED AND STORAGE BINS.

MERIDEN PLANT OF THE CONNECTICUT TRAP ROCK QUARRIES, INCORPORATED.

miles or less from Meriden, had been established, notably those of B. D. Pierce, Jr., Co., at Middlefield; The Cooke Stone & Ice Co., at Plainville, and The Rocky Hill Stone Co., at Rocky Hill.

In 1902 a consolidation of these companies was effected under the name of The Connecticut Trap Rock Quarries, Incorporated; and this company now operates the crushing plants at the several points named, supplying the trade offered by the cities and towns reached by the N. Y., N. H. & H. system.

Since Mr. Lane's original venture in 1890 the use of concrete has come into almost universal practice for foundation and similar work. The several states have taken up the question of improved highways and annually build miles of stone roads, and there is scarcely a town or city which has not its system of macadam roads. The value of rock ballast on the railroads, too, has been fully demonstrated, and its necessity on roads of importance is admitted both for economical maintenance and comfort of the traveling public. These several influences have brought about a steady and healthy growth of the business.

All of the former managers of the independent quarries retain their interests in the Connecticut Trap Rock Quarries, Inc., and form its executive staff, as follows:

President—Bradford D. Pierce, Jr.
Treasurer—Arthur S. Lane.
Secretary—Irving S. Tinker.
General Superintendent—James H. Cooke.

The general office of the company is at 101 Meadow street, New Haven, Conn.

KELSEY PRESS CO.

This manufacturing concerns adds fame to Meriden where it has always existed; for in its works are made, among other printing utilities, the celebrated Excelsior printing presses, which have been on the market for over thirty years and are used all over the world. The company also possesses and operates the only type foundry in the Nutmeg state, casting in large quantities the celebrated nickel alloy type. At the factory on South Colony street, where a large number of hands are given constant and remunerative employment, are also made the Combination cabinet, the Excelsior type case, an improved and patented style which saves a vast amount of labor to the compositor; card and paper cutters, small binding machines, and other articles used by both the experienced and inexperienced printer to great advantage.

The now extensive business of the Kelsey Press Co. is the outcome of the small start made by William A. Kelsey in 1872 and whose quarters first comprised one room in the Morse & Cook block. The first product of his industry was one small sized press which, from its practicability, soon came into general use for home, office and store printing. These presses,

known as the Excelsior, are now more than a toy; for gradually other patterns and styles have been added to keep pace with the growth of the business, until the Excelsior press is now made in all sizes from the small

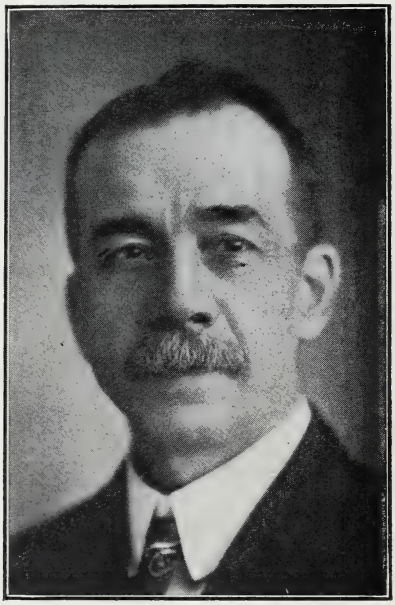


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM A. KELSEY.

portable card press to the flat-bed cylinder machine suitable for country newspaper work. In 1876 Mr. Kelsey built the present factory which has since been occupied, and the business has continued to grow and prosper, the variety of the product becoming greater every year.

In September, 1905, the concern became incorporated under the state laws of Connecticut and the capital stock of $75,000 has since been held by the following officers: William A. Kelsey, president; F. C. Edgerton, vice-president, secretary and general manager; F. L. Huntington, treasurer and superintendent, all of whom are well known and influential residents of Meriden. The first named has remained the head of the business from the start; Mr. Edgerton became associated with the business in 1881, coming from the Home National Bank, where he had been previously employed; and Mr. Huntington, a present member of the state legislature and Meriden board of aldermen, has been

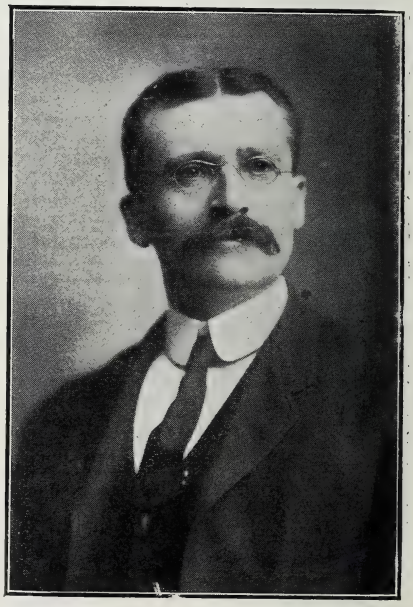


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
F. C. EDGERTON.

connected with the establishment continuously from 1885.

The Kelsey Press Co. has brought distinction to Meriden in no slight degree; for in putting upon the market

outfits for home and mercantile printing, they have done much toward educating the general public in the greatest of all arts, the art preservative. While a large mail order business is done direct with the consumer, the daily mail of this company; covering a far wider field than that of any other concern in this locality, reaching every civilized nation on earth, the business of supplying regular printing offices with all supplies known to this age is not only extensive but growing steadily and rapidly. The product of this concern has now for many years been recognized by the printing trade as of standard excellence, a result attained by conscientious effort in every detail.

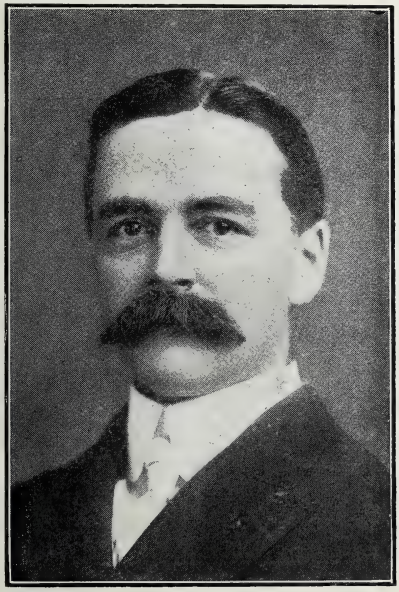


Photo by Akers.

F. L HUNTINGTON.

FRANK WHEELER & SON.

Frank Wheeler, senior member of the firm of Frank Wheeler & Son, who conduct an extensive manufacturing business on Stone street, in their own building, was born September 8, 1837, at Cromwell, Conn. A few months after his birth his parents removed to Moodus where he spent his boyhood and learned the trade of a machinist, after having been previously employed in a cotton mill in that town.

Late in the 50s he came to Meriden, where he has been located ever since, and became employed by Parker, Snow, Brooks & Co. and later by N. C. Stiles, who conducted a machine shop in a wooden building on the site of the present Journal building. Mr. Stiles, about that time, began the manufacture of power presses; and Mr. Wheeler worked on the first one produced. About 1860 Mr. Wheeler abandoned the machinist trade and engaged in photography, for some years thereafter conducting a studio at the corner of Main and Hanover streets, in which building he also resided. He soon built up a high reputation as an artist in portrait photography, but during the last portion of the time he was engaged in conducting a studio, he branched out into commercial photography, in which he became justly celebrated. In 1890 he engaged in the machinist business, first in a small way, his original location being on the second floor of the building on South Colony

street, now owned by the Meriden Grain & Feed Co., and there the nucleus for the present large business was established.

During the intervening years, his son, Alfred Pelton Wheeler, who was born September 24, 1871, in the building where his father then conducted the photograph business, was growing to manhood. After receiving an early education in the Meriden public schools and graduating from the Sheffield Scientific school of Yale University in June, 1892, the following month he entered his father's shop and in 1895 was admitted to partnership.

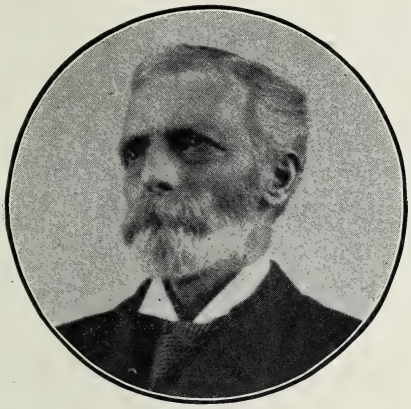
In 1898 the demands upon the shop had increased to such an extent that the industry demanded more room, and the present four-story brick factory, fronting on Stone street, was erected by them. To the original product of the factory, which comprised power presses of all descrip-



FACTORY OF FRANK WHEELER & SON.

tions, for cutting, drawing, stamping sheet metal, was added the business of machinery, dies, tools and special machines for various purposes. In recent years has been added the manufacture of special hardware, including an extensive line used in the construction of piano players. There are

also made at this busy factory the hardware parts for some of the varied systems of loose-leaf ledgers, lamp parts, etc. The factory which now



FRANK WHEELER.

furnishes employment to forty-five hands, many of whom are skilled workmen, is equipped with all mod-



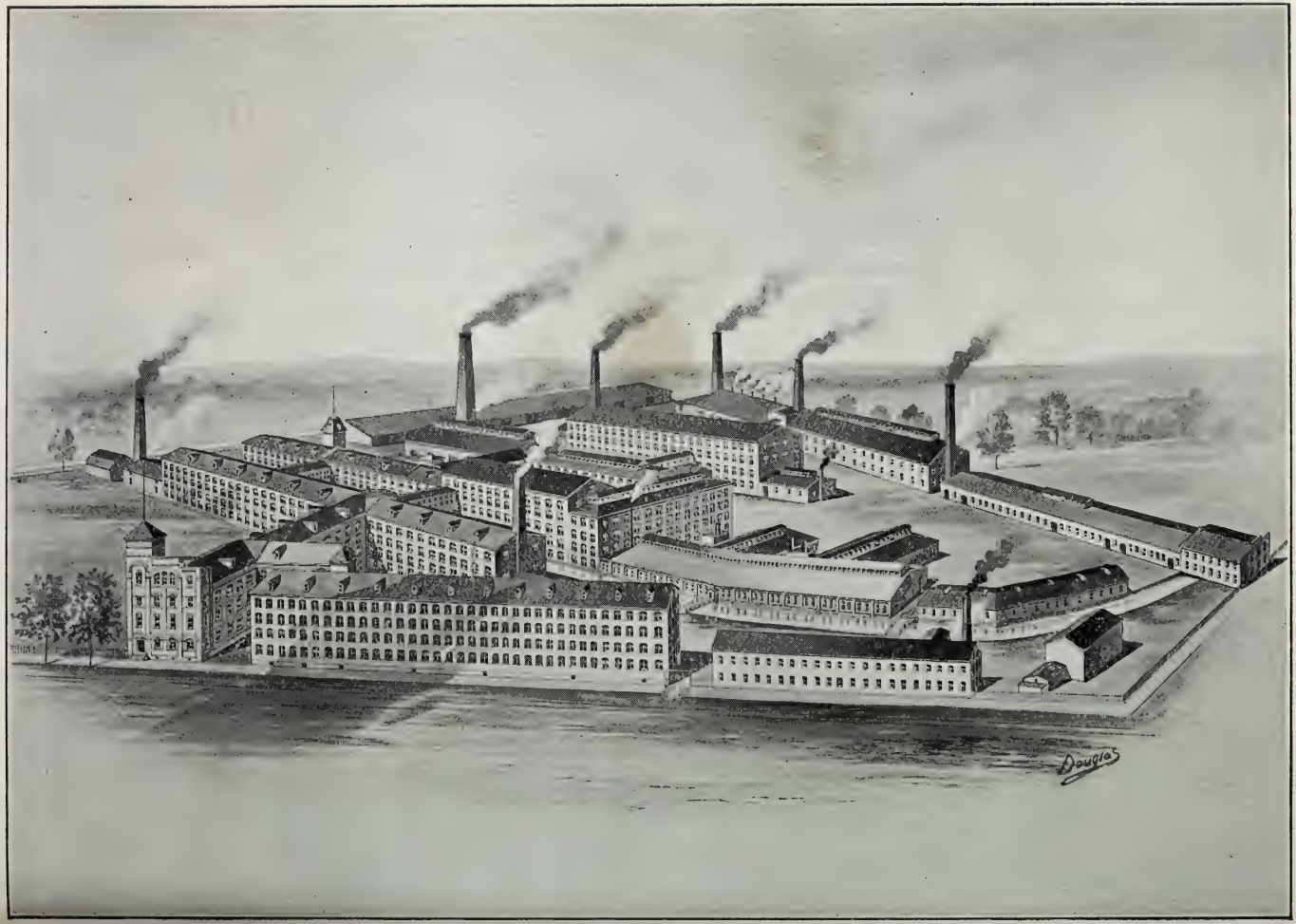
ALFRED P. WHEELER.

ern machinery necessary for turning out its varied output and all facilities are at hand for the economical prosecution of the work, from the 8,000 pound crane for handling heavy castings to the most modern appliance for polishing, buffing and plating of the hardware specialties made.

BRADLEY & HUBBARD MFG. CO.

An industry which has for many years been one of the largest in its line in the world, and an important factor in the growth and business reputation of Meriden, is that of Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., organized January 1, 1875, succeeding Nathaniel L. Bradley and Walter Hubbard, who founded the business in 1854. Their works consisted of a small two-story frame building located at the corner of Hanover and Butler streets. The company's present buildings cover an area of more than six acres, with several hundred thousand feet of floor space. When the company was incorporated the officers were Walter Hubbard, president; Nathaniel L. Bradley, treasurer, and Charles F. Linsley, secretary, who with Clarence P. Bradley, have always composed the board of directors, as well as the stockholders of the company. At the date of its incorporation the company employed about 150 people; to-day there are nearly 1,000, which indicates the growth of a business started in 1854 with not more than twenty-five employes.

The products of the company consist of gas and electric light fixtures of all kinds, of the most elaborate and artistic designs, for residences,


Douglas

churches and other public buildings; also the celebrated "B & H" lamps, fire place furniture, and a large variety of miscellaneous goods in metal, including bronze, brass and iron grille work, bronze doors, railings, stairs, etc., all of which have attained a reputation, not only throughout the United States but all over the world, for beauty of design, mechanical work and finish. The factories are equipped with the most modern machinery and facilities for the manufacture of their products, enabling their employes, many of whom are skilled workmen, to produce the best possible results.

Salesrooms, where samples of their products can be seen are maintained in New York City, Boston and Chicago, also at the factory.

WALTER HUBBARD.

Walter Hubbard, president of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., whose gift to the people of Meriden of the park bearing his name, has awakened a desire in many people of the state and country who have visited Meriden and Hubbard park, to know something more of the city's benefactor beyond the fact that he is a gentleman of culture and means. For nearly a half century he has been one of its leading citizens. Politics and public station have never attracted him.

He was born Sept. 23, 1828, in Middletown, Conn., is a descendant of George Hubbard, who came from England in 1633, and was one of the original settlers of Middletown in 1650. His ancestors have lived in this region for 250 years and the Hubbards furnished a remarkable record in the war of the Revolution. Captain Jeremiah Hubbard, grandfather of Walter Hubbard, was one of the number.

Like the majority of the youth of his day, Walter Hubbard was reared on a farm.

He was educated in the public schools and also attended the Chase preparatory school of Middletown. At the age of eighteen years he secured a position as clerk in a Meriden store, and with aid of self denial, a clear head and energy, he was enabled to accumulate enough capital to embark in business for himself. This he did in 1851, opening a dry-goods and clothing store in Meriden and continuing it successfully until 1860. In 1852 he was married to Abby Ann, daughter of Levi Bradley, of Cheshire; she died a few months after their marriage, and Mr. Hubbard has never again married.

In 1854, in company with his brother-in-law, N. L. Bradley, Mr. Hubbard founded the business which in 1875 became incorporated under the name of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co. and devoted himself entirely to its interests. Since its incorporation he has been president of this great industry. Mr. Hubbard is actively connected with many important concerns of Meriden. He is president of the Meriden Gas Light Company, the Meriden Electric Light Company and



Walter Lenhard



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

RESIDENCE OF WALTER HUBBARD.

the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Company. He is also interested in local banks and other companies as a stockholder and director. In 1882-3 Mr. Hubbard built the Winthrop hotel, which is one of the finest in New England. In this he was actuated to confer a benefit upon the city rather than as an investment. His gifts to various charities have been numerous. He has always made liberal donations to public charities and has given freely of his means to the cause of education. His interest in the Meriden hospital has been of great benefit and in keeping with his gifts to other institutions. In 1883-84, Mr. Hubbard went around the world and he has frequently visited Europe and the principal portions of this country.

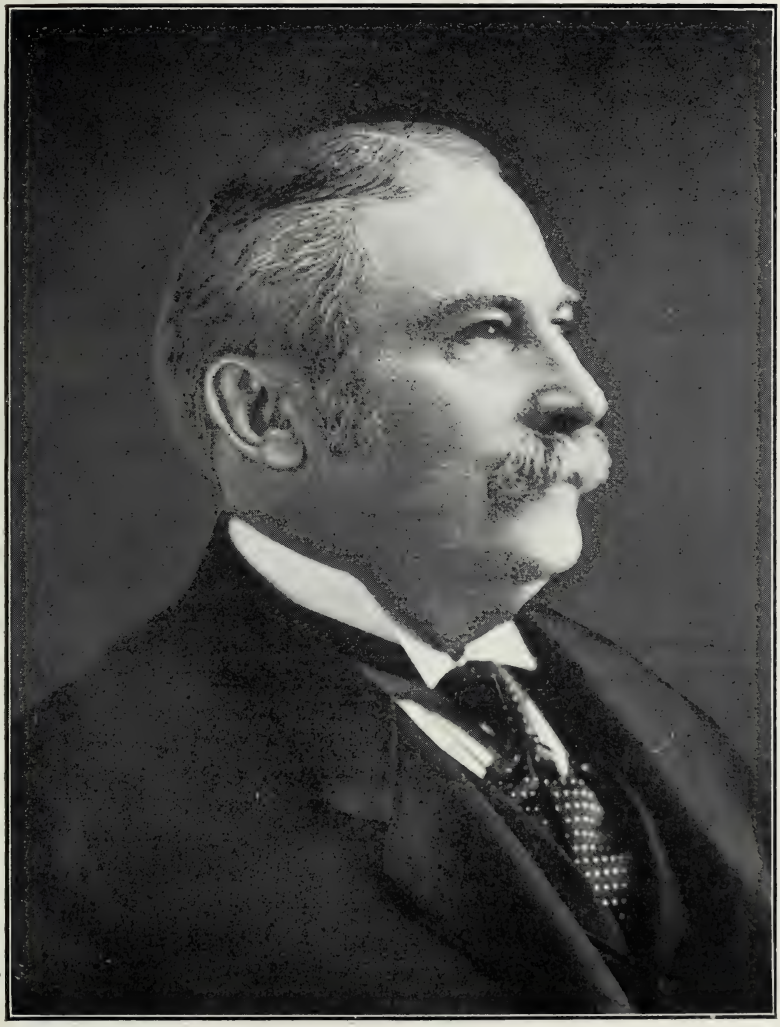
Mr. Hubbard is a member of the Union League Club of New York, the New England society, of New York, the American Geographical society, and a number of state and city organizations. He makes his home in a mansion on Washington place, a most desirable section of the city.

NATHANIEL L. BRADLEY.

Nathaniel Lyman Bradley, treasurer of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Company, is a man who bears the highest reputation for business ability not only in his own city of Meriden, but also in all the business centers. The firm of which he is treasurer and one of the chief stockholders, is first in the world in its line of goods and a proportionate share of its success has come through his grasp of business situations.

Mr. Bradley was born in Cheshire, Connecticut, December 27, 1829. His parents were Levi and Abigail Ann (Atwater) Bradley, upright and unassuming farming people who came of the good sturdy New England stock. Daniel Bradley, father of Levi, was a farmer in Vermont and was driven from his home by the military operations of the British during the Revolution. He moved to Hamden, Connecticut, and thence to Cheshire. His son, Levi, was born in Cheshire November 11, 1792, and died in Meriden March 18, 1877. Levi Bradley was a man of great energy and keen business discernment. He was not content to be merely a farmer, he strove to be the best farmer in his section. His success characterized his whole career and his three sons, Samuel, William L. and Nathaniel L., inherited much of his business ability. The subject of this sketch has also had two sisters; Emeline Amelia Bradley, married the late Alfred P. Curtis, and was the mother of Mrs. George A. Fay; and Abby Ann Bradley, died in 1852, who married Walter Hubbard, president of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co.

Nathaniel Bradley received his early schooling in the Cheshire schools and graduated from the old Meriden Academy where so many of his fellow citizens finished their education. He left school, however, at the early age of fifteen and at once went to work as clerk for E. B. M. Hughes, a



Photo, 1906, by Akers & Pigeon.

W. L. Bradley

hardware merchant in New Haven, Connecticut, in the store now occupied by John E. Bassett & Co. After a year his father felt that he must have his aid on the farm, and so he returned home, greatly to the regret of Mr. Hughes, who had already recognized the aptitude of the lad. He continued to work for his father until he was twenty-one; but the life of a farmer did not satisfy his growing ambition to become of some note in this world and, accordingly, when the opportunity came of embarking in a little business venture in Southington, Conn., he readily accepted the offer to become one of the stockholders. His business was the making of clocks and after six months' experience in the factory he was offered the contract of making three hundred clocks a day and gladly took the responsibility. It was during his connection with this small concern that he was given his first opportunity to show his skill as a salesman. Owing to the overproduction of the factory, Mr. Bradley was sent to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington to sell some of the surplus stock. The result of his first trip was such that he not only sold all the goods on hand but continued to keep the factory busy with other orders that taxed the factory to its fullest capacity. His success in selling goods was appreciated to such an extent that he was made the head salesman and a director in the company. Here he continued until 1854 when, in company with others, he started that great industry with which his name has ever since been associated in Meriden, the population of which was then but 2,500.

Mr. Bradley holds many important positions besides that of treasurer of the above company. He was a stockholder and one of the directors of the first street railway company in Meriden. He is a director of the First National Bank; the City Savings Bank; the Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Co.; the Meriden Republican Publishing Company, J. D. Bergen Co., and other financial enterprises in Meriden and elsewhere. In politics he is a Republican and, although never seeking office, he has been alderman and acting mayor.

In his religious affiliations Mr. Bradley is a Congregationalist, and is a member of the First Congregational church, having been chairman of the society's committee twenty-eight years. He has always contributed very generously to its support, and gave a princely sum toward the construction of the present stone edifice. Other great works have also been greatly benefited by his aid from time to time. He was one of the first to give largely to the work of the Y. M. C. A., and he contributed toward the building owned by that association and also to the proposed new building of the Y. W. C. A. When the Curtis Memorial Public Library was built, Mr. Bradley gave $1,000 to that institution for books, and a bronze tablet has been placed in one of the alcoves in



RESIDENCE OF NATHANIEL L. BRADLEY.

recognition of his generosity. Since its foundation he has also been a liberal friend of the Meriden Boys' Club. Mr. Bradley is a large owner of local real estate and was the first to build tenements fitted with all modern improvements, in which he was followed by other property owners. He has for many years been a large owner of this class of houses and has deservedly been accorded the reputation of being a fair minded and liberal landlord. For the past fourteen years he has been one of the trustees of the Connecticut School for Boys and in July, 1899, was unanimously elected president of the board. On account of other duties making more urgent demands on his time he resigned the honor in favor of Francis W. Parker, of Hartford, one of the trustees. During the administration of Superintendent Howe Mr. Bradley made the State School a present of a complete set of brass musical instruments, and as a result of this one instance of his heartfelt interest in the institution there has ever since been a well organized band there.

Mr. Bradley is also vice president of the Meriden Fire Ins. Co.; a director in the Walnut Grove Cemetery Association and president of the Meriden hospital, which office he has held since its organization, and contributed liberally toward the cost of the building. He is also president of the Meriden Trotting Park Association. He is a member of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. His interest in public affairs has always been widely felt and all improvements in streets, parks, cemeteries, etc., have always met with his hearty support and have been benefited by his wise judgment, while he also gave with Walter Hubbard in 1905, several acres of land to the city for park purposes.

Mr. Bradley has been quite a traveler, not only in his own country but in foreign lands as well. He has crossed the Atlantic several times.

In October 25, 1859, Mr. Bradley was married to Harriet E., daughter of Selden and Lucy Hooker (Hart) Peck, of Kensington, Connecticut. Mrs. Bradley is a woman of rare personal charm and presides with grace over her beautiful home, which is always pointed out as one of the most imposing in Meriden. One son, Clarence Peck Bradley, one of the directors and stockholders of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., resides with his parents and is also private secretary and treasurer for his father.

CHARLES F. LINSLEY.

Charles F. Linsley, secretary and one of the directors of Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., who has for many years been a leading spirit in the affairs of that large corporation, was born at Branford, Conn., in the year 1843. His father was Frederick Linsley. His mother (who is now living) was Harriet Foote. He is a descendant on the paternal side from John Linsley, who came from Eng-



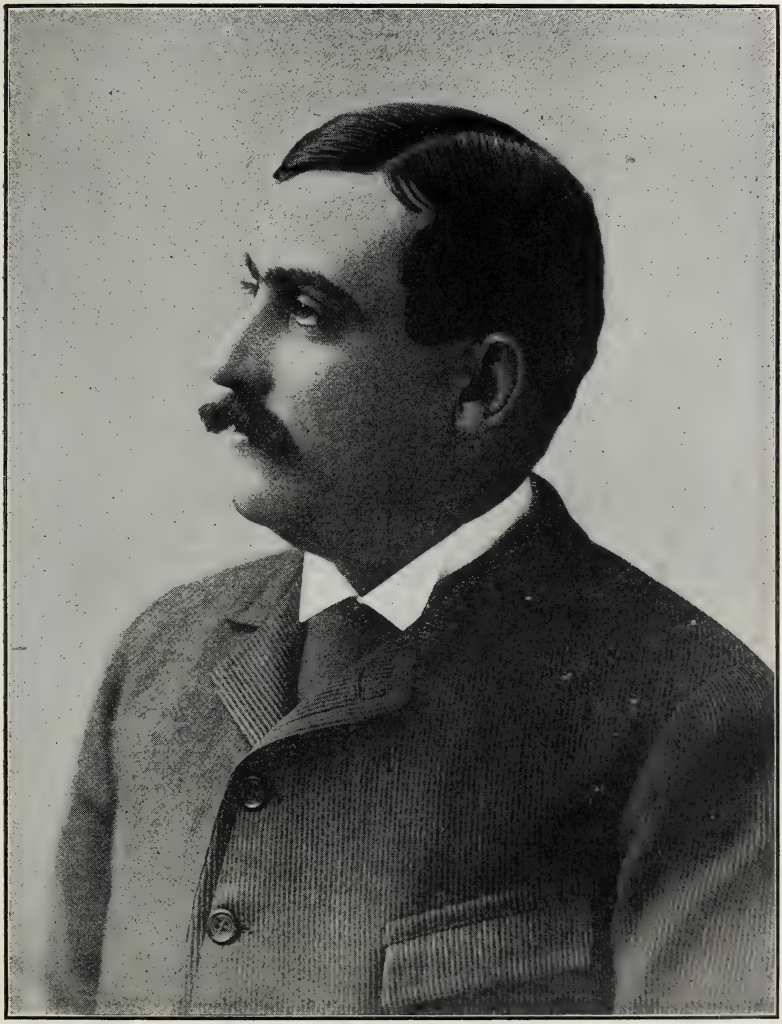
Chas. F. Linsley

land and settled in Branford in 1646; and on the maternal side from Nathaniel Foote, who came from England and settled in Wethersfield, Conn., early in the seventeenth century; also from Rev. Samuel Russell, of Branford, Conn., in whose house the ten ministers met and donated forty books for the "founding of a college in this colony," viz: Yale College.

In his youth he was taught at home and in the common district school that to work was honorable. At the age of seventeen years he left the farm and came to Meriden to accept a position offered him by the late Charles H. Collins in his grocery store, where he remained about two and one-half years, until August, 1862, when he enlisted for three years as private in Company F, Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers. He was appointed by Col. Charles L. Upham quartermaster sergeant of the regiment, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. After returning to Meriden he entered the office of the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., where he remained until 1869, when he was offered and accepted a position with Bradley & Hubbard. As Mr. Bradley in those days was away from home much of the time, and Mr. Hubbard in New York nearly all the time, he had an unusual opportunity of developing business ability, which was appreciated to the fullest extent by Mr. Bradley and Mr. Hubbard. He gradually became each year a more important factor in the fast growing business, having been given an opportunity of taking an important part in advancing the interests of the firm. The Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co.'s works, occupying over six acres, employing about 1,000 people, is one of the largest manufacturers in its lines in the world. Mr. Linsley's connection with the company covers a period of thirty-seven years. Ever since the incorporation he has been one of the three original stockholders and directors, also the secretary of the company. He is a man of broad ideas and excellent business capacity. He is a director in the following Meriden institutions: First National Bank, City Savings Bank, Meriden Trust & Safe Deposit Co., Meriden Gas Light Co. and Meriden Electric Light Co. He has never held any public office except as a member of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. He was married in 1871 to Georgiana E. Gay, who is a prominent member of Susan Carrington Clarke Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. They have one child, a daughter—Mrs. James H. Hinsdale.

CLARENCE P. BRADLEY.

Clarence Peck Bradley, the youngest of the four directors and stockholders of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., is the only son of Nathaniel L. Bradley, one of the founders and treasurer of the large corporation which bears his name. He was born in Meriden, and as stated elsewhere in the sketch of his father, he comes from early New England ancestry. His



C. P. Bradley.

early education was obtained in the schools of Meriden, and he finished at the Russell Military School at New Haven, also known as the Collegiate and Commercial Institute, where he prepared to enter Yale College. Having his choice between a college education and extensive foreign travel, he chose the latter, where, by observation and study of people and their customs in the various quarters of the globe, he became possessed of knowledge which has been of inestimable value to him since starting upon his business career. Upon his first return from abroad, he was given an opportunity by a fond and indulgent father, of proving his business worth, by being placed in charge of his interests. His success in familiarizing himself with and afterwards managing these affairs, which called for a display of good judgment and business ability, soon secured for him the confidence of his father, to the extent that he was made his secretary and treasurer, and within the past few years, has managed practically all of his father's private interests. In 1885, he was elected one of the directors of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., in which he has been ever since a factor in its affairs. His success in matters of finance has won him the confidence also of other manufacturing concerns where his counsel and judgment are appreciated. He is also one of the directors of the City Savings Bank.

He is a prominent figure in social life, and in 1905 served as president of the Home Club, one of the many social organizations with which he is affiliated. Of this club he was one of the prime movers in the construction of the present handsome building on Colony street and served the organization as a member of the building committee. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His interest in the Curtis Memorial Library is indicated by a bronze tablet in one of the alcoves.

Mr. Bradley is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity and his membership in that order includes all of the several branches in Connecticut. He is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter, 27, R. A. M.; Hamilton Council, 22, R. & S. M.; St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T.; also of the Scottish Rite bodies of New Haven, and of Lafayette Consistory of Bridgeport where he received his thirty-second degree. He is also a member of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Bridgeport.

Mr. Bradley has spent much time in travel; he has visited Europe several times, and studied the life and customs of nearly every civilized nation, as well as having circumnavigated the globe.

A Republican in politics, he never has accepted any public office whatsoever. He is, however, like his father, possessed of a vast amount of public spirit and regard for the town of his birth. During the preparations for the Centennial celebration, he has served with efficiency and value as a member of the general committee of citizens appointed to arrange and

carry out the extensive plans for that historic occasion.

THE HANDEL COMPANY.

This Meriden manufacturing concern, incorporated in 1904 with a capital of $50,000, occupies an enviable position in the trade; for its goods, so original in design and artistic in creation, make it independent of either American or foreign competition. Its product, "Handel Ware," appeals to all high class and celebrated interior decorators and jewelers, and the reputation the concern has gained is the result of the artistic abilities of the man whose name it bears, and the history of the business, therefore, is that of its president, treasurer and founder, who is a native of Meriden.

Philip J. Handel is one of four children, and his parents were Jacob and Catherine (Wuterich) Handel. His grandfather, Philip Adam Handel, was an industrious farmer of Wittenberg, Germany, who emigrated to this country and settled in East Hartford, after having learned of the advantages to be availed of in America through his daughter, Fredericka, who had gone before. His maternal grandfather, Frederick Wuterich, was also a native of Wittenberg, Germany; he was the proprietor of large machine works there, but died when quite a young man. Jacob Handel, father of Philip J., settled in Meriden many years ago and married here, in the early sixties, Catherine Wuterich, who was also born in Wittenberg. He was a worthy and respected citizen of Meriden, and died by accident in 1875, after having been employed as a foreman for many years at the works of the Charles Parker Co.

His children were George and Fred, now large dealers in cattle and general merchandise at Musselshell, Mont.; Emma, who married Dr. Franklin Drake, a leading practicing physician of Webster City, Iowa; and the subject of this sketch. He married in 1890 Caroline Sutterlin, who died in 1904, after a lingering illness of two years.

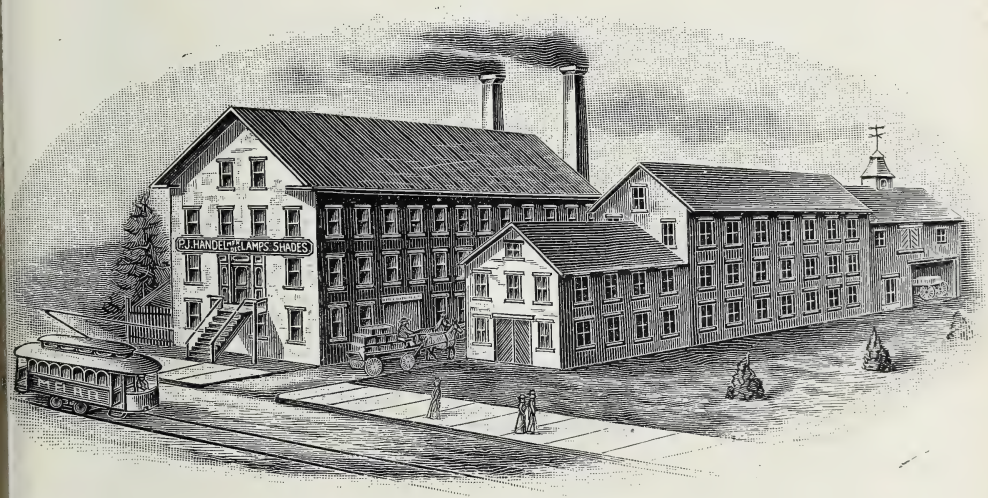
Like his brothers, Philip J. Handel is rugged in physique, and when nine years old, his father having died, he was possessed with that sense of responsibility that he began to take part in the maintenance of the household. As a boy he showed a talent for drawing, which was heartily encouraged by his fond parents, and he studied, with a laudable aim and ambition, books of art. To assist him in attaining his ambition he bought a printing outfit, and, in the play hours of the ordinary boy, did job printing on a small scale. At the age of fourteen he left school and secured employment at the factory of the Meriden Britannia Co., but a month later he entered the works of the old Meriden Flint Glass Company. In the latter factory he was given an opportunity to show his capability and to develop a talent for designing and decorating, which in late years has proved invaluable to him. At the age



Philip Handel.

of nineteen, in 1885, Mr. Handel with Adolph Eydam as a partner, began his career as a Meriden manufacturer in his present line. Afterwards, he continued alone in the present factory until 1904 he incorporated the business of which he has ever since been the main stockholder of the close corporation, and leading spirit in the fast growing enterprise, as president and treasurer. During the past five years the business has more than trebled, mentioned A. M. Parlow, who has charge of the decorative glass department, and Anton Teich of the metal and art glass department, both of whom are men of established reputations in their particular kind of work.

Owing to the increased demand for the high class product the company recently opened a branch factory in New York where the most skilled artisans could be procured to assist in



MERIDEN FACTORY OF THE HANDEL COMPANY.

and the factory is equipped with every facility for the execution of the work there carried on. The power plant (electric) recently constructed anew, is fitted with a one-hundred horse power boiler, 85 horse power engine and fifty K. W. generator, making a most modern and efficient equipment.

Associated with Mr. Handel at the factory are many skilled artisans and mechanics. Among them may be supplying the demand for their goods. Mr. Handel is known as one of the public spirited men of the town, which this year celebrates its centennial, and the ware he has put on the market during the past score of years, has well earned him an honored place in its history, although he is but one of the youngest, yet successful, manufacturers of the town. He is a member of Center Lodge, 97, A. F. & A. M.;

the Home Club and the Cosmopolitan Club and several fraternal organizations in which he is deservedly popular. He also serves as a member of the Centennial committee, on the subcommittee of Decorations and Street Fair.

FOSTER, MERRIAM & CO.

This time honored concern has added to the prosperity and fame of Meriden as a manufacturing center for over seventy years; and from the start have been associated with it many men who have taken an important part in the history of the town. Foster, Merriam & Co. at the present day conduct a large factory fronting on Cross street and extending several hundred feet along the tracks of the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad, in the very heart of Meriden. They are extensive manufacturers of casters, drop handles, furniture trimmings, cabinet hardware and bath room fittings.

The business of the present day contrasts strongly with the small start made in the western part of Meriden, at what was then known as Crow Hollow, and the small shop thirty by twenty-five feet, first utilized, has long since been destroyed by fire; but its location is marked by the foundation which still remains.

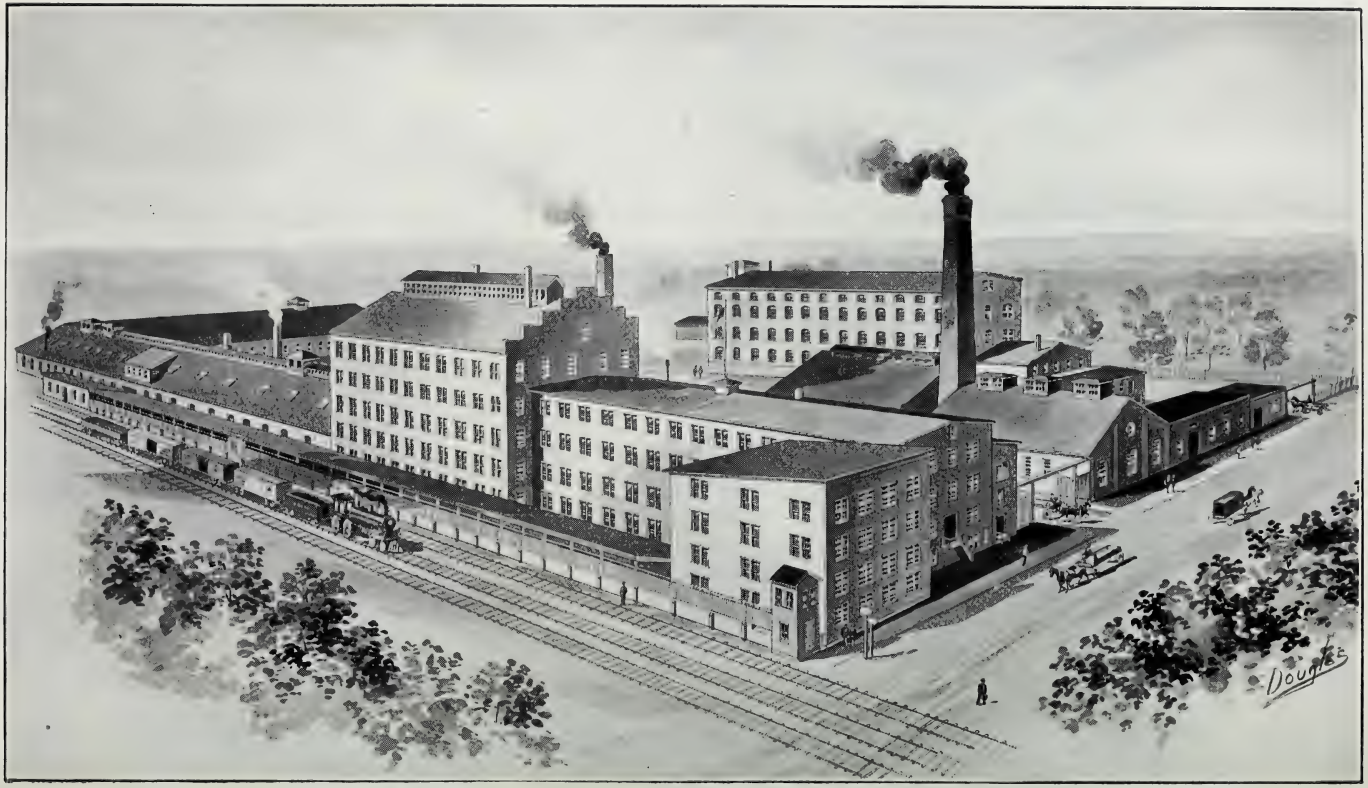
The original founders of the business were Albert Foster, Hiram Foster, Julius Way, Asaph Merriam, Nelson Merriam, all of Meriden, and a Mr. Belden, of New Britain, who formed the first partnership under the name of Foster, Belden & Co., for the making of casters only. The capital was then but about $2,500. The firm did not make its own castings; they were cast at a foundry in the town, and one of the firm used to carry the castings in his buggy to the shop every day, and bring them back to the depot when finished and packed, in the same vehicle. There were probably less than 200 pounds of castings used daily by the little shop. The firm simply finished the work and shipped it. Horse power was used in turning the machinery, and the members of the firm were at first the only workmen employed. The firm as organized in 1835, was short lived, for the following year, Mr. Belden sold his interest to Asaph and Nelson Merriam. With the withdrawal of Mr. Belden, the name was changed to Foster, Merriam & Co. At this time the product of the business did not exceed fifty sets of casters per day. The panic of '37 nearly swept the firm out of existence; as it was, the company was obliged to suspend operations for six months. Although every credit customer on the company's books failed and did not pay over fifty per cent. of their obligations, the little firm of Foster, Merriam & Co. paid every dollar of its indebtedness. Five years after the organization of the company, in 1840, Julius Way sold out his interest to John Sutliff. Asaph Merriam sold out in 1843 to the remaining partners.

The company had been gradually growing too large for its diminutive quarters in Crow Hollow, and in 1850,



Geo. C. Merriam. Hiram Foster. Nelson Merriam. Albert Foster.
James R. Sutliff. John Sutliff. Nelson C. Merriam.

FOUNDERS AND FORMER OFFICERS OF FOSTER, MERRIAM & CO.



FACTORY OF FOSTER, MERRIAM & CO.

the land on which the factory now stands was purchased of Lauren Merriam. Three years later Alanson Watrous became interested with the company in the iron foundry business and a foundry was built on the land of

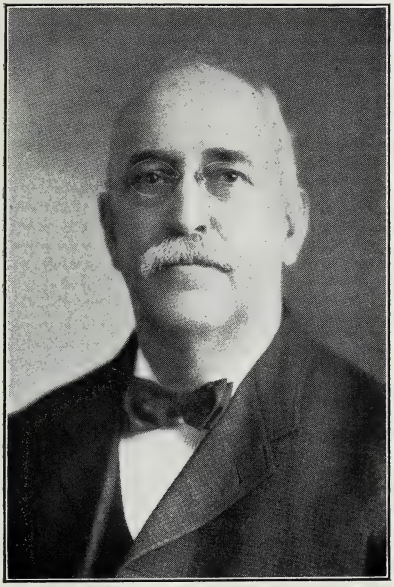


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM ZERFASS.

the company. The business in this department was conducted separately under the firm name of A. Watrous & Co. This branch continued until the death of Mr. Watrous in 1862, when his interest was bought out by the surviving members. In 1866 the firm was incorporated as a joint stock company with a capital of $80,000, but has always been conducted under the old firm name. In 1869 the manufacture of drop handles was added to the business, and has grown to large proportions. Also, as demanded by the trade, various kinds of furniture trimmings have been added, until almost anything in the hardware line required by manufacturers of furniture can be found among the product of this firm. From its establishment until 1880, none of the members of the firm had died while a member; but in February of that year, Nelson Merriam, the president, was stricken suddenly of heart disease, and the late John Sut-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
J. L. RUTHERFORD.

liff, who had for many years been one of the directors, succeeded him as president.

Mr. Sutliff held that office until his death, June 22, 1897, when James R.

Sutliff, who had, since 1887, been vice-president, and previous to that the superintendent of the factory, was elected president and held that office until his death January 18, 1902.

Nelson C. Merriam, son of Nelson Merriam, was for many years a prominent factor in the concern and upon his death was succeeded as western representative by William Zerfass.

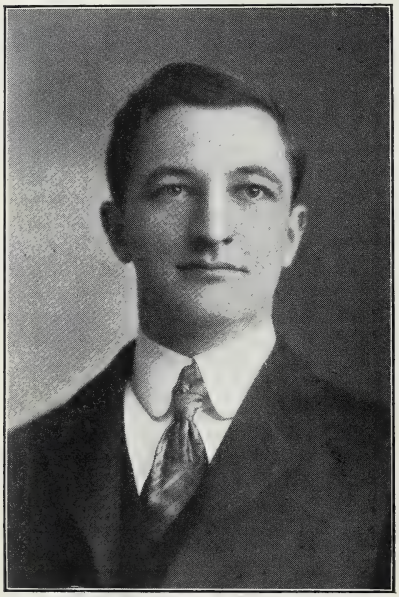


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
ROBERT J. MERRIAM.

On March 7, 1902, George C. Merriam, who since 1880 had filled the offices of secretary and treasurer, was elected president; also retaining the office of treasurer. On that date J. L. Rutherford was elected secretary, and William Zerfass superintendent. Shortly after the decease of Mr. Merriam who died suddenly March 23, 1904, William Zerfass was elected president, also retaining the office of superintendent. Robert J. Merriam was then elected to his present office as treasurer.

The present directors of the company are as follows: William Zerfass, J. L. Rutherford, Robert J. Merriam, George E. Savage and Dr. O. A. Parker.

The business of the company has increased largely within the past decade and several noticeable enlargements and additions have been made to the plant, which now covers a large area, as is shown in the accompanying engraving. Over 350 hands are given steady employment and the product of the factory is shipped all over the world. The goods are made from the raw material and every portion of the work of producing their large output is conducted within the several buildings now occupied. The business adds greatly to the prosperity of Meriden; and the product of the factory is both creditable to the city and a source of pride to its citizens.

The trade embraces a large territory, and there is no state in the Union in which cannot be found those who use some of the articles manufactured by this concern; and the trade with Canada and other foreign countries is no small item. The company has been burned out three times partially and once wholly; but the pluck and push that always characterized the corporation was not disheartened by these calamities.

The company has always been conservative, and changes in help are rare occurrences. The employes respect their employers; for they are well treated and do faithful work; and no company in the city stands higher in the estimation of the public, the employes and the trade than Foster, Merriam & Co.

THE MERIDEN FIRE ARMS CO.

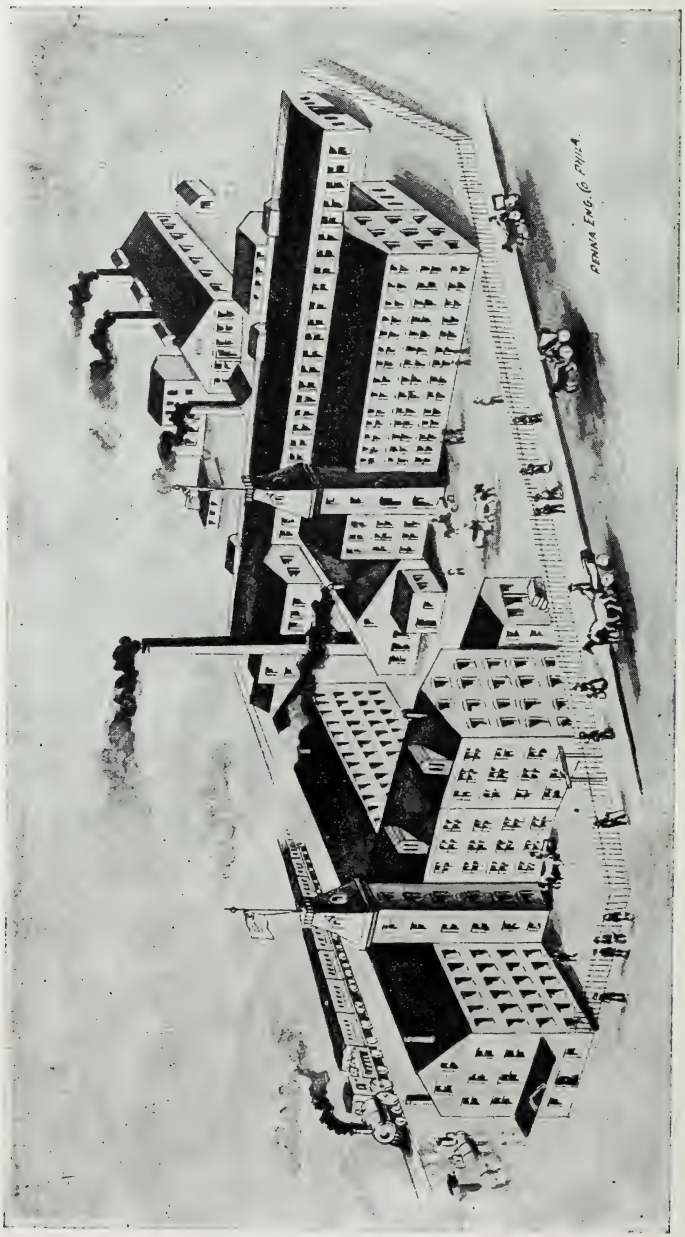
The Meriden Fire Arms Co. bids fair to become Meriden's largest manufacturing concern. Its owners, Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago, noted for their splendid achievements, liberal business enterprise and world-wide trade, are bending their energies toward that goal.

In January of 1905, the nucleus of the present company moved to this city from Hopkinton, Mass., reorganizing under the name of The Meriden Fire Arms Co., in the old Malleable Iron Company's plant in the northern part of the city.

The advent of the new company was a happy day for Meriden. The Malleable Iron Works had been closed for several years and the buildings were fast falling into decay. Houses were either vacant in the neighborhood of the works, or were renting for but a poor return on the money invested. In the brief space of a year and a half this has all been changed. The factory buildings were overhauled at large expense with a view to house in them hundreds of busy men and a thousand flying wheels for the manufacture of guns and revolvers of divers patterns. It is very difficult to get a rent in North Meriden to-day and it is said that the price of real estate and the value of rents have increased twenty per cent.

The formation of the Meriden Fire Arms Co. was made possible by the immense business in guns and pistols and the vast capital of Sears, Roebuck & Co. For years past the concern has found it difficult to get the quantity or character of fire arms demanded by a constantly growing and exacting trade. The location of the works in Meriden is mainly due to its vice-president and general manager, A. J. Aubrey, an old Meriden boy, who, though many years away from Meriden, had neither forgotten the business advantages of nor the love which he had for the old town.

Mr. Sears, president of the Chicago firm, and Mr. Aubrey came to Meriden to look the ground over. It had been decided that Hopkinton was too far removed from the gun-making centers to be advantageous in building up an extensive gun factory. With large gun concerns in Hartford, New Haven, Springfield and Norwich, any one of a number of towns hereabout would make it easy to get in touch with gun sentiment and gun workers, so essential to the smooth working of a large gun enterprise. It was by no means settled that Meriden was to be selected as the site for the new works. Plants in Middletown and other places were available.



FACTORY OF THE MERIDEN FIRE ARMS COMPANY.

The condition of the factory buildings in the old Malleable Iron works was so bad that an immediate hitch in negotiations for its purchase was occasioned. The owners receded some from their original asking, but thirty thousand dollars with the necessary large expenditures for repairs to rehabilitate the old buildings was still considered by Messrs. Sears and Aubrey as far above a taking figure. For a time it seemed unlikely that the new company would locate in Meriden. Good sites had been found in New Haven and Middletown with a likelihood of their selection far above that of the Meriden location.

At this juncture Mr. Aubrey, anxious to bring the big works to Meriden if it were possible, returned to this city, determined to make another try for the North Meriden plant. The owners would not budge from their reduced asking price. It then became a question if the people of Meriden would permit another city to get a concern that would bring several hundred thousand dollars in annual wages to tradespeople and householders and a vast prestige to the city as a manufacturing center. Several leading business men of the city were asked by Mr. Aubrey if the town would aid the company to secure the plant.

A hasty meeting of the local board of trade was called. Mr. Aubrey talked the matter over with it, explaining the position of Sears, Roebuck & Co. in the premises, their expectations as to output of guns and ultimate extension of the works till they should be the largest and most distinctive in the United States. Mr. Aubrey's earnestness and tact caught the board. His proposition was not to be passed by as was indicated by an immediate subscription of more than half the amount needed to bring the Sears, Roebuck & Co. offer up to that demanded by the owners of the desired property. The remainder of ten thousand dollars asked of the board of trade was subscribed the day after the memorable meeting with the result that the Malleable Iron works were turned over to the new owners to become again the scene of great activity but in a new business.

The owners of the concern met in Meriden to rechristen their new works. Naturally the name became the Meriden Fire Arms Co. The Chicago people were as well pleased over the turn in affairs as were the citizens of Meriden. With keen outlook they sized up the many advantages of their new location. Big as the plant was, it was but the beginning of a great gun concern. Acting on that thought, the abutting vacant property, running nearly two thousand feet along the railroad, was purchased, some day to be covered by the company's factory buildings.

On the 10th of January, 1905, the "trek" of the works from Hopkinton to Meriden began. Just twenty days later the old whistle over the power house broke the silence of years with its call to work; steam and smoke circled again over the buildings and the wheels in the long unused shops be-

gan to turn for a long career of usefulness and profit, let us hope.

It is well to record the foregoing bit of history, parts of which we believe to be prophetic of a future of large enterprise.

The Meriden Fire Arms Co. is operated under a charter obtained in the state of Illinois which entitles it to capitalize at one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The stock is held by Sears, Roebuck & Co., the only partners being A. J. Aubrey, the general manager and F. A. Stephani, the treasurer of the local concern.

Its way of doing business has led the company to equip the factory with every labor-saving device known to the trade. No machinery has been beyond the reach of the concern. The factory buildings are filled with modern machines that, like magic, transform the rough drop forgings, made of the best quality of steel, into a partly completed product, as smoothly and apparently as easily as the modeler shapes his wax.

A large element in the cost of running a plant on such lines is that for machinery, good at the time, but later superseded, which goes to the junk man, having outlived the day of its usefulness.

Mr. Aubrey has been connected with the company, either as a member of the present company or as vice-president of the Hopkinton concern, a year and a half. In that short period he has been fortunate in securing the Meriden location with all of its promises for the future, at the same time the output of the works has been nearly doubled. In the short space of a year new guns have been invented by him and are now on the market.

The A. J. Aubrey single barrel, hammer shot gun is being turned out at the rate of over two hundred guns a day. The A. J. Aubrey double gun is now on the market, superseding the old Fryberg gun made at Hopkinton. This new sporting fire arm is equal to any made in this country or England. It is a handsome specimen of the gunmakers' art. The lines are beautiful in proportion and drop. In that regard it is perhaps the highest development attained in sporting guns. The mechanism of this gun is simple, strong and perfect, insuring an easy working and reliable arm. It is of the popular hammerless kind and is made with or without the automatic shell ejecting device.

Another gun bearing Mr. Aubrey's name nearly ready for the market is the single hammerless. This gun is said to be without an equal among its kind. Like the double hammerless it is fine in its lines and simple and strong in its construction. It has several new features that will commend it to that class of sportsman who want a light gun of the single barrel kind which at the same time is high grade.

In addition to the guns mentioned above as brought out in the year past may be mentioned the small Atlas sporting rifle. This rifle takes its place with a number of similar guns popular with young sportsmen.



A. J. AUBREY.



F. A. STEPHANI.

Photos by Akers & Pigeon.

A well equipped pistol factory is connected with the business. Twenty varieties of hammer and hammerless pistols are manufactured with an output in January, 1906, of a hundred pistols a day.

Everything points to a wide open future for the company. Meriden is to be congratulated that it is here. It is a matter of the largest concern to the city that its full ambitions shall be reached.

Albert James Aubrey, vice president and general manager of the Meriden Fire Arms Co., was born in Hartford, Conn., February 23, 1863. His parents, John and Mary Aubrey, removed to Meriden when he was three years of age. Here he grew to manhood, living in Meriden continuously until he was twenty-one years of age. His early education was obtained in the public schools, the first school he attended being the East district, located on the Middletown road, near the Parker spoon factory. When Mr. Aubrey was eight years old his parents purchased the old Yale farm situated on East Main street. He then attended the Center school on Parker avenue. After graduating from this school he entered the employ of the Parker Gun Co. and has been identified with the gun business up to the present time, being associated with several of the largest gun concerns in the United States.

On July 1, 1904, Mr. Aubrey engaged as general manager with Sears, Roebuck & Company, in Hopkinton, Mass.

Mr. Aubrey is a member of the Masonic fraternity. His immediate family consists of his wife, née Blanche E. Boomer, whom he married in Fulton, N. Y., November 25, 1891, and a daughter, Clara May Aubrey. Others of his family now residing in Meriden, are a brother, Alfred John Aubrey, formerly a clergyman of the Unversalist denomination, now superintendent of the pistol department of the Meriden Fire Arms Co.; two sisters, Mrs. F. W. Stiles and Mrs. A. W. Proudman. His father, John Aubrey, who is over eighty years of age, makes his home with him. He has also a brother, W. H. Aubrey, a steel engraver, residing in Syracuse, N. Y.

MANNING, BOWMAN & CO.

The history of the present large manufacturing concern of Manning, Bowman & Co., which has for many years added to the importance of Meriden as an industrial center, dates back over forty years to Middletown, Conn., where the company was organized and the first goods bearing its name were made. The company requiring increased capital for the successful conduct of its business, interested such public spirited Meriden citizens as Horace C. Wilcox, Isaac C. Lewis and George R. Curtis, with the result that in 1872 the concern removed to its present location in Meriden. After becoming a Meriden enterprise the board of directors was organized by the election of Messrs. Wilcox, Lew-

is, and Curtis, with the addition of Jos. H. Parsons, Edward B. Manning, Robert Bowman and Edward Furniss. The officers elected were: Edward B. Manning, president; Robert Bowman, secretary and treasurer. Other large stockholders at that time were W. W. Lyman and Lemuel J. Curtis.

iden, covered but a small portion of the large triangular area, formed by Pratt, Miller and Catlin streets, the whole of which is now occupied by the factory of the company. At first only fifty hands were employed. From this small start has developed the present imposing plant which has



FACTORY OF MANNING, BOWMAN & CO. IN 1872.

In 1872 a small wooden building, previously occupied by the Parker & Casper Co., who had been making silver plated ware, but who were at about that time absorbed by the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., became the home of Manning, Bowman & Co. The first quarters of this company in Mer-

a frontage on three streets of 1,000 feet, an excellent illustration being shown on the following page.

The product of the factory has been noticeably changed within the past decade. A large volume of the original output was mounted enameled ware, britannia, planished tin and cop-


MANNING, BOWMAN & COMPANY
MANUFACTURERS OF
CULINARY
SAN FRANCISCO

per goods. As far back as the Centennial of 1876, the company had world's fair exhibits of its goods, which included their first enameled tea and coffee pots with white metal mountings. The company secured medals for these goods at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and were also awarded prizes at other similar exhibits. The company's enameled wares with patented metal mountings rapidly gained popularity.

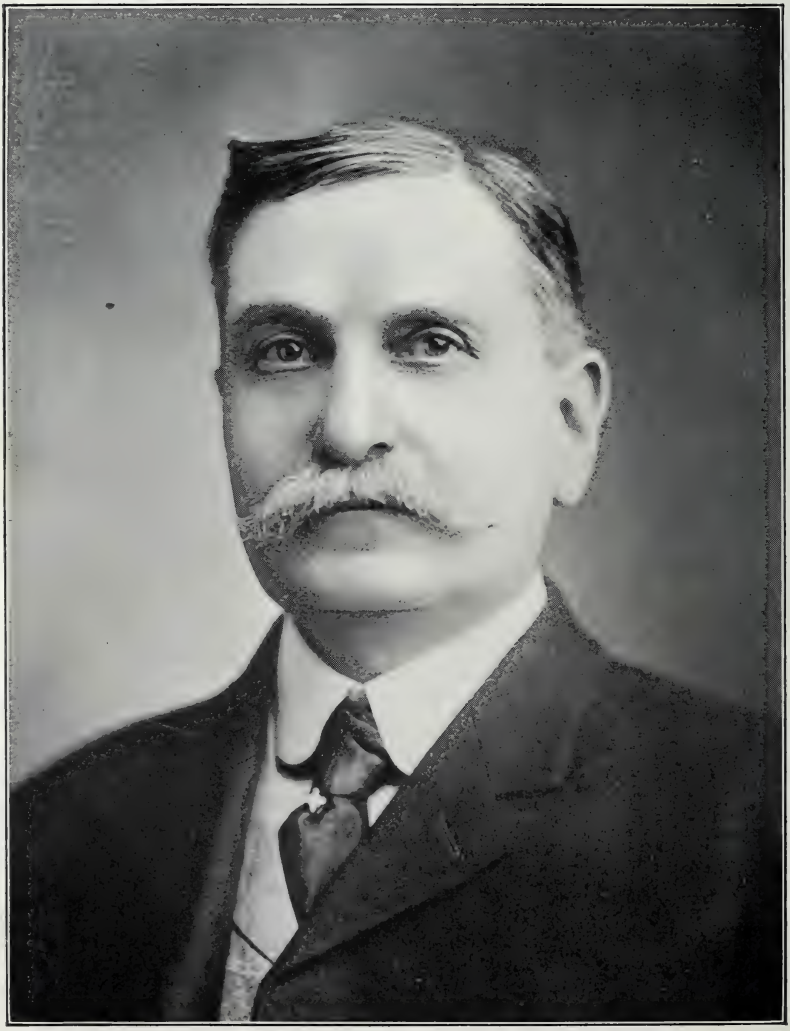
In 1898 George E. Savage, who had for twenty-five years been associated with the Meriden Britannia Co., became the active head of the business as president, treasurer and general manager. In 1900 Albert L. Stetson was elected secretary, which office he still holds. The output of the factory at the present day consists largely of chafing dishes, Meteor coffee percolators, prize trophies of varied and beautiful design, including those in solid copper with English pewter mountings; plated table ware and a full line of bath room furnishings. The chafing dishes of this company have become famous, especially those with the patented "Ivory Enameled" food pan, which can be applied to any chafing dish, making a clean, attractive and desirable article. The product of the factory is not excelled in beauty and durability by the output of any similar establishment. Repeated enlargements of the factory have been made and new machinery has been purchased to keep pace with the constantly increasing demand for its goods. An equipment enabling the company to generate its own electricity for lighting and power purposes has been installed and the large plant has been fitted with an adequate fire sprinkling system. The latest article of manufacture is the celebrated "Eclipse" bread kneader and mixer, which practical and economical household labor-saving device is made in a separate building completely equipped for that purpose with special machinery recently installed, the latest and best procurable.

The present board of directors comprises: George H. Wilcox, George M. Curtis, Samuel Dodd, George Rockwell, George E. Savage, Albert L. Stetson and William L. Mirrielees.

In addition to extensively fitted up show rooms at their factory, the company have salesrooms in the Crockery Exchange building, at 25 West Broadway, New York, and in the North American building, corner of State and Monroe streets, Chicago, with agencies in San Francisco, Cal., and London, England.

George Edwin Savage, president of Manning, Bowman & Co., has for many years been one of the most familiar figures of local manufacturing circles. He is the son of Edwin and Frances Sophia (Wilcox) Savage and was born in Berlin, Conn., February 27, 1851. He is a worthy descendant of one of the oldest families in Connecticut, from 1652, when John Savage became one of the original settlers of Middletown, Conn.

From the New England Historical Record it is found that in 1674 John



GEORGE E. SAVAGE.

Savage possessed 1,207 acres of land bordering on the Connecticut river and that his name is seventh on the list of the members who organized the First Congregational church of that town. The family name has ever since been a common one in this section of the state. He is a great grandson of Seth Savage, who was corporal in the Revolutionary War.

George E. Savage began his business life at the age of seventeen, for it was upon the advice of his uncle, the late Horace C. Wilcox, that he left his father's farm in Berlin before he had fully completed his education at Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, Mass., and associated himself with the Meriden Britannia Company. There by close application and keen observatiton, he obtained a thorough knowledge of the silver ware business and soon after was given the management of the Meriden salesrooms of that company, which position he occupied for nearly a quarter of a century, until prevailed upon by the officers of the Meriden Britannia Co. to accept the position of general manager of Manning Bowman & Co. With the last named concern, Mr. Savage has been a potent factor in its recent remarkable growth, and previously having been one of the directors, in 1898 was elected president and treasurer, both of which offices he has since filled.

He is also one of the directors of Foster, Merriam & Co., and for some years has been a director in both the Meriden Savings bank and the Meriden National bank. He is well known in social life, being a member of the Home Club of Meriden, and of Captain John Couch Branch, Sons of the American Revolution, and is a man of marked executive ability. He is much interested in church matters, being a member and one of the trustees of the First Congregational church.

He was married in Meriden June 9, 1875, to Charlotte P., daughter of Albert Foster, one of the founders of Foster, Merriam & Co., and from that marriage there is now living one son, Albert Wilcox Savage, born June 16, 1889. Mr. Savage is known as a man of strong personality, sound judgment and a most loyal citizen of Meriden.

CONN. TEL. & ELEC. COMPANY.

This fast growing manufacturing concern, whose busy plant is located on Britannia street, and the rear of whose factory adjoins the tracks of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., is the result of the small start made by E. C. Wilcox in 1893. In 1894, B. L. Lawton entered into partnership with Mr. Wilcox. It was at that comparatively recent date that the foundation of the present business was laid in a small portion of the plant of the Meriden Malleable Iron Company. In 1902 the business of the firm had so increased that they were warranted in purchasing the present factory, which had previously been occupied by the Bond Harness Company, and on March 1, 1903, were incorporated with a capital stock of $36,000, but which, by another act of the legisla-

ture, has since been increased to $45,000. Since the concern became incorporated, the officers have been as follows:

E. C. Wilcox, president; B. L. Lawton, vice-president and treasurer, and B. C. Rogers, secretary, all of whom are natives of Meriden.

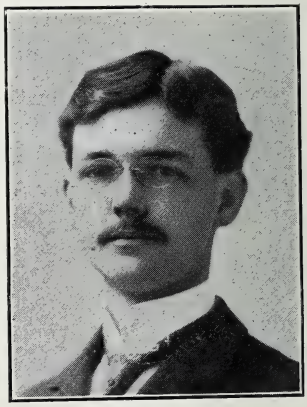
The high quality of their product, which comprises telephones, telephone switch-boards, and electrical supplies, has placed them in the position of the



E. C. WILCOX.

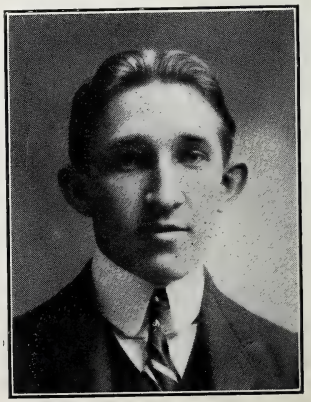
largest manufacturers of their goods in this section of the country. Their plant has been several times enlarged and improved since they removed to the present factory buildings.

They make everything in their line from the raw material to the finished product. Among their latest triumphs is an inter-communicating telephone for interior use in buildings, which furnishes in itself, by pressing buttons, complete exchange connections, with all parts of the building, and releases the same automatically, and comprises the only successful system of its kind of the present age. The



B. L. LAWTON.

company are also turning out a new spark coil apparatus, the use of which is exceedingly advantageous when applied to automobiles. Seventy-five



B. C. ROGERS.

hands on the average are employed and the business is now on such a firm basis that steady work is the rule.

J. D. BERGEN CO.

Prominent among the industries which have made Meriden famous in the state of Connecticut is the cut glass manufacturing establishment of the J. D. Bergen Company, formerly located on Miller street. This factory had been operated to its fullest capacity for many years, and its product sold throughout the entire United States and in many foreign countries. The aim of the J. D. Bergen Co. has been to produce a line of cut glass which shall sell, not only during the holiday seasons, but through the entire year. This has been accomplished by keeping always in mind the popular price feature, which has become so intimately associated with the Bergen product that in the eyes of the trade "Bergen Cut Glass" and "Popular Price" is to-day synonymous.



PRESIDENT JAMES D. BERGEN.

The present factory is the outgrowth of a venture having its inception in a partnership formed by James D. Bergen, the founder and present President and Treasurer of the J. D. Bergen Co., early in 1880 under the style of Bergen & Niland. The principal business of the young firm at that time was the production of the caster bottles, then so much in vogue. A working arrangement with the Meriden Britannia Co. helped matters along with the new firm, and the business was successfully conducted for a period of about five years. J. D. Bergen, at the end of that period, seeing greater opportunities before him, purchased out the interests of his partner, and early in 1892 made a stock company of the business, forming the J. D. Bergen Company, with a capital stock of $40,000, subsequently increased to $60,000. It is of interest to note that the first board of directors included such men as Clarence P. Bradley, C. Berry Peets, E. J. Doolittle and C. E. Stockder, Jr. To-day, thirteen years later, Messrs. Bradley, Doolittle, Peets and Stockder are still actively interested in the concern, and supplementing their efforts is N. L. Bradley, of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., who is to-day also in the directorate.

The J. D. Bergen Co. employs a force of approximately 200 hands at



J. VAL. BERGEN.

its Meriden plant, maintains offices and show rooms in New York and in Chicago, and resident agents at Boston, Baltimore and all other principal cities of the United States. In addition to the regular traveling force, Mr. Bergen's two sons, J. Valentine Bergen and W. Tracy Bergen (who cover the south and middle west respectively), the Bergen Company maintains traveling representatives in the far West in the United States, and foreign representatives who take in practically all of Asia and Oceanica. There is also a resident agent in the city of Mexico and in Honolulu.

The product of the J. D. Bergen Company, while well known for many years, is constantly increasing in favor among discriminating purchasers. This is perhaps due to the fact that its product is the legitimate expression of a manager and subordinates who have practically been bred and born in the cut glass business. With this in mind, it cannot be any surprise to the reader to learn that the factory was usually oversold early in the fall, and, as a matter of fact, the Bergen Company has been unable to fill all its orders during the last few months of the year for at least half a dozen years past. This fact, and the opportunity offered to purchase the large five-story brick plant at Center and Britannia streets, a few months ago, has resulted in the acquirement by the Bergen Company of the larger plant, an excellent view of which appears on the opposite page. The new location, where much greater facilities are enjoyed, was first occupied in March, 1906. The plant now occupied is one formerly used by one of the local industries and is admirably situated for the large business now being there carried on by the J. D. Bergen Company, as it possesses not only more floor space but excellent railroad accommodations, the factory fronting on the main line of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., a private spur track from which extends alongside the factory.



W. TRACY BERGEN.

Each department of the factory, while under the personal supervision and management of James D. Bergen, is under the superintendence of managers who have satisfactorily demonstrated their entire ability for their respective positions. The result is that the product of the Bergen Company, as offered on the market, is all that it should be, and holds high rank in the cut glass industry. This art, in which the American workman, perhaps by reason of his superior deftness, seems to excel those of all other nations, has nowhere reached the excellence that it has in the United States.



FACTORY OF THE J. D. BERGEN CO.

THE M. B. SCHENCK CO.

The inception of the M. B. Schenck Co. was in 1881 when the present president of the company began the manufacture of a line of double wheel casters of his own invention, suitable in their sizes and varieties for furniture and trucks. For nearly twenty-five years they have been known the world over as the Yale caster.

The fifteen years intervening between the close of the war and the above date were devoted by Mr. Schenck to the hardware trade in Fulton, N. Y., his native town.

This had not only qualified him as a merchant but had given him a practical knowledge of the requirements of the trade which later on has proven an exceedingly valuable asset.



MANUFACTURING PLANT OF THE M. B. SCHENCK CO.

While fairly successful in his bus-

iness, it was limited by existing conditions, and could not be enlarged to cover the broader field to which his laudable ambition aspired.

With his invention as a nucleus, he sold out his business and came to New Haven in 1882, to learn the new and untried life of a manufacturer.

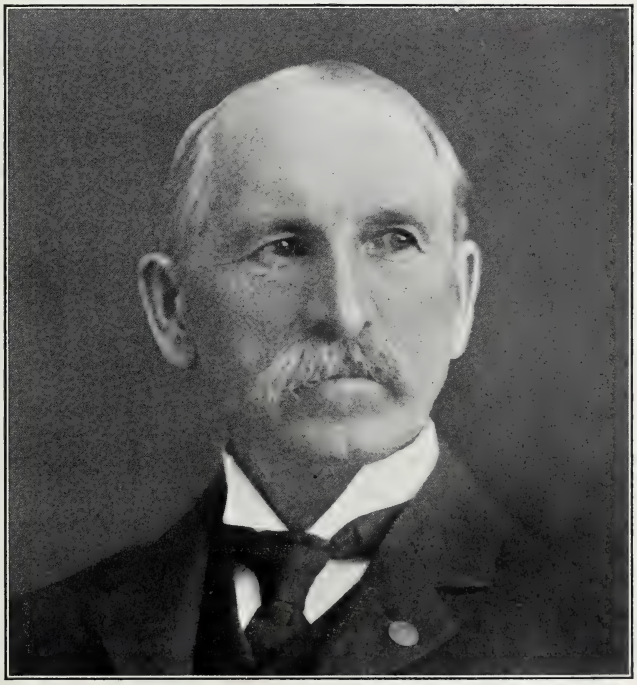
At the end of a five years' struggle, with inexperience, insufficient active capital, patent lawsuits and discouragements almost overwhelming, and just as the tide was turning in his favor, a destructive fire swept away a very important part of his business.

Inducements, seemingly promising, brought him to Meriden in 1887. In 1891, in company with his son, W. A. Schenck, they bought the Beecher Mfg. Co. plant which has since been brought to a high state of perfection.

The plant extends 600 feet along the main line of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., which affords excellent advantages for a manufacturing business.

In 1897, it was incorporated with M. B. Schenck as president, W. A. Schenck as secretary, treasurer and general superintendent.

Five distinct and exceedingly popular lines of casters, all the product of Mr. Schenck's inventive talent, are now made and the business has grown to large proportions.



M. B. SCHENCK.

M. B. SCHENCK.

Martin B. Schenck was born April 29, 1838, in Fulton, New York. He was brought up on his father's farm, educated in the common schools and in Falley Seminary, Fulton, N. Y.

In the years following he taught school, learned the builder's trade, served from 1862 to 1865 in the 147th Regiment, N. Y. Vols., in the war of the rebellion, and from 1865 to 1881 was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He came to New Haven, Conn., in 1882 but five years later his factory was burned out and he came to Meriden.



RESIDENCE OF M. B. SCHENCK, BROAD STREET.

In creed he is a Methodist; in politics a Republican, from the birth of the party. He is a devoted member of Merriam Post, No. 8, Grand Army of the Republic, and a manufacturer.

He was an active "Wide Awake" in the campaign of 1860, cast his first presidential vote that year for Lincoln and again four years later, sending his ballot home from the army in an envelope.

His experiences the last fifty years have been exceedingly varied, interesting and instructive. He is a lover of choice literature and has traveled extensively in his own country and abroad.

His pleasant home on Broad street, surrounded by well-kept grounds, is one of the most desirable locations in the city. It stands at an elevation of 135 feet above the business portion of the city, away from the throb and whir of its many great industries and commands a view of city, park and mountain range rarely equaled in the many beautiful, busy cities of Connecticut.

Mr. Schenck is, on his father's side, of pure old New York Knickerbocker Dutch blood, and belongs to the ninth generation in this country.

His first ancestor of his name in this country was Roelof Martense Schenck who came from Holland in 1650, and married, in 1660, Neeltje Gerretse van Couwenhoven (now called Conover) whose grandfather came from Holland in 1630. They all settled in New Amsterdam, later in Flatlands, now Brooklyn, and were prominent among the Hollanders in New York under the old Dutch regime.

His mother's first American ancestor, Newman Perkins, came from England with Roger Williams, and finally settled with him in Rhode Island. He is of the sixth generation in this country in this line. Descendants from these families inheriting the sturdy qualities of their ancestors, have been prominent in business, social and political circles all along the line from the earliest times. Through all the great wars from the revolution down to the present time, each generation has filled its full quota, always regarding loyalty to high civic principles as the paramount duty of the American citizen.

MERIDEN GAS LIGHT CO.

Meriden has been well provided with gas by the above public service corporation since 1863, when the company received its charter from the Connecticut Legislature. The business has always been conducted by Meriden men and local capital, and during its entire history the company has furnished pure coal gas.

The first plant occupied was that which stood on the site of the present plant of the Meriden Electric Light Company on South Colony street. The original gas works sufficed for the needs of the town for some years. The company began business with a capital stock of $35,000, but this has been since gradually increased to $350,000.

The first cost of gas to the people of Meriden was $4.65 a thousand feet. As a result of that necessarily high price, gas was then principally used for illuminating purposes and largely by



WORKS OF THE MERIDEN GAS LIGHT COMPANY.

people of means. Happily for the housekeeper of the present day the charge per thousand feet made by the company, makes gas an economical as well as labor and time-saving fuel. The passing of time only has made possible a gradual reduction in the price of gas; so that it has finally become generally and even liberally used in Meriden. By 1874 the demands were such that the company, after erecting a new and larger plant on Cooper street, abandoned the former location for their new one. From that time to the present, and more especially within the past decade, new buildings have been erected on the property, which covers several acres; until the works comprise, in 1906, one of the best equipped in all New England. Among notable improvements is the acquisition of a giant gas holder. Previous to the construction of this gasometer the gas holding capacity of the plant was but 200,000 cubic feet. A new building for purifying gas and another for the office and station meters have also been added within recent years. The plant now consists of a retort house; exhauster, condenser and washer building; purifying building; a holder of 200,000 cubic feet capacity; and a steel gasometer, 100 feet in height, capable of holding 700,000 cubic feet. There is also a governor house which regulates automatically the pressure in the gas mains; and coal sheds of generous capacity adjoin the tracks of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. The manufacturing and distributing force is thirty-five men. The annual output is 100,000,000 cubic feet.

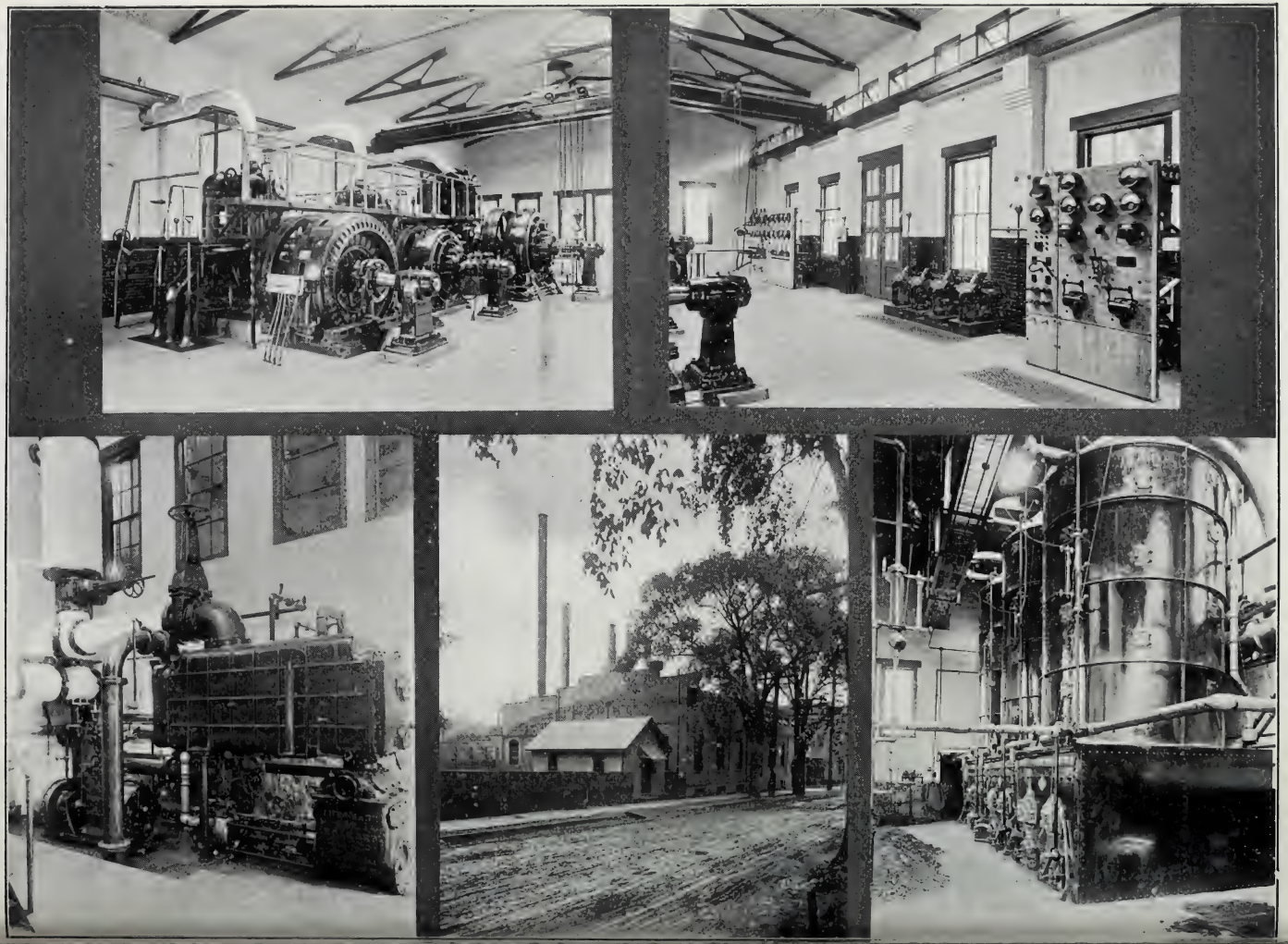
During the past eleven years the company has reduced the price of gas from $1.80 to $1.25 net per thousand feet; these reductions having been entirely voluntary on the part of the company, have been appreciated by the public and resulted in the freer use of gas, there being, in 1906, 4,800 meters in use. Large additions to the street mains have recently been made and there are now forty-five miles of pipe laid, covering practically every street and avenue in the city limits, and, to a certain extent, beyond.

The late James A. Hadley was superintendent of the plant from the commencement of business by the company until his death which occurred in October, 1895. The present superintendent and manager has served in that dual capacity since May, 1896.

The officers of the company are: President, Walter Hubbard; secretary and treasurer, Samuel Dodd; manager and superintendent, Charles A. Learned. The above officers with Charles F. Linsley, George M. Curtis, E. J. Doolittle and F. C. Sherman, comprise the board of directors.

MERIDEN ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

While electric lighting was in vogue some years previous to 1887, it was in that year that the above company was organized by charter from the state legislature, the capital stock then being $25,000. The station, at that



time purchased from the old company, was located on State street and passable service was rendered the public. The equipment consisted of two 100 h. p. boilers; two engines of the same capacity and two fifty arc light dynamos, thirty-seven of which were devoted to city street lighting.

The enterprise of the new company soon began to assert itself; for by increasing the capital stock to $50,000, a new power station was erected on South Colony street on the land where once had stood the buildings of the gas company. In 1902 the electric light station was thoroughly remodeled and made practically fireproof, the capital being then increased to $200,000. All the old engines were removed and compound condensing engines of 1,100 horse power substituted which are directly connected with the dynamos. New steam boilers of 750 horse power have also been installed giving the station a combined machine capacity of 750 K. W. For some years the company has furnished a twenty-four hour service for both light and power, the rate being 12 1-2 cents per K. W. for lighting; and for power from 10 cents to 5 cents per K. W., according to the quantity used. The company has always supplied the municipality with street light; and in 1906 furnish 200 arc lights for that purpose; 8,000 incandescent lights of sixteen candle power are also supplied from the station and considerable power for manufacturing and other purposes. With its service the company covers the city proper most effectively and the same is rarely complained of but compares favorably with that of any progressive New England city. Since 1887 the local electric light company has been under a management whose officers and directors have been the same as those of the Meriden Gas Light Company; yet a friendly rivalry exists between the two companies, for the business is kept entirely separate.

James A. Hadley, during the latter years of his life, was the superintendent; but since 1896 Charles A. Learned has held the office of general superintendent. The officers and directors are recorded previously in the description of the Meriden Gas Light Company.

CURTISS-WAY COMPANY.

From its remarkable growth during the past six years, for since 1899 only has it been under its present management, the Curtiss-Way Company has added more than its full quota to the good name of Meriden as a manufacturing center. This company, whose now extensive plant, covering more than one acre of floor space, located on Pratt street, was materially enlarged in 1905 and the formal opening after the marked changes had been made, occurred November 20 of that year. The accompanying illustration gives an excellent and truthful representation of the extensive printery, the product of which comprises a most varied and extensive line, not only of book, job and mercantile printing, but advertising novelties, calendars, mem-

orandum and other books. The company also runs its own electrotyping plant, does its own paper ruling and also its own book and pamphlet binding, being thoroughly equipped to turn

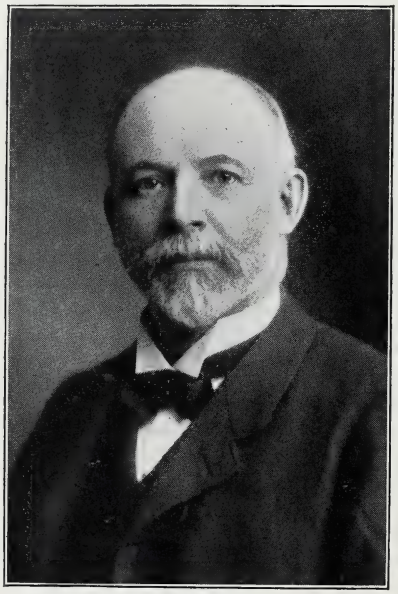
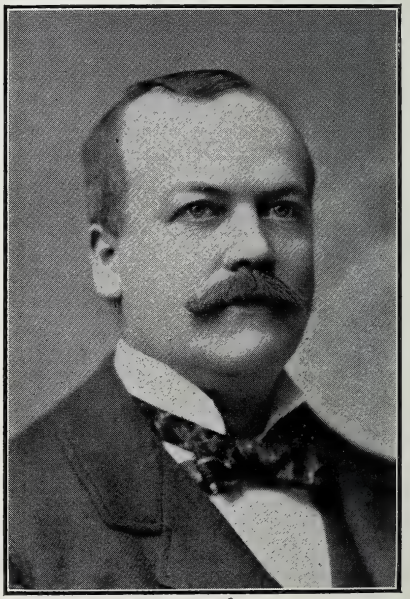


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
JAS. A. CURTISS.

out complete the work undertaken by the busy concern.

The business was first established about 1880 by A. J. Converse, and after having been conducted by him for some years, was acquired by James A. Curtiss, a prominent business man and wholesale grocer of this city, who formed a company known as the Converse Publishing Company, which was managed by Mr. Converse until his retirement in 1899. It was in that year that the present company was organized, the principal stockholders being James A. Curtiss and William H. Way, the former who had become extensively concerned financially, and the latter who had been superintendent of the plant since 1891, and whose names the corporation has since borne.

At that time but thirty hands were employed and the plant was a diminutive affair compared to that of the present date, which comprises one of the largest and best of its kind in New England and gives employment to over 100 hands. The assets of the company, including the new plant, are



W. H. WAY.

in excess of $100,000 and the capital stock is $50,000.

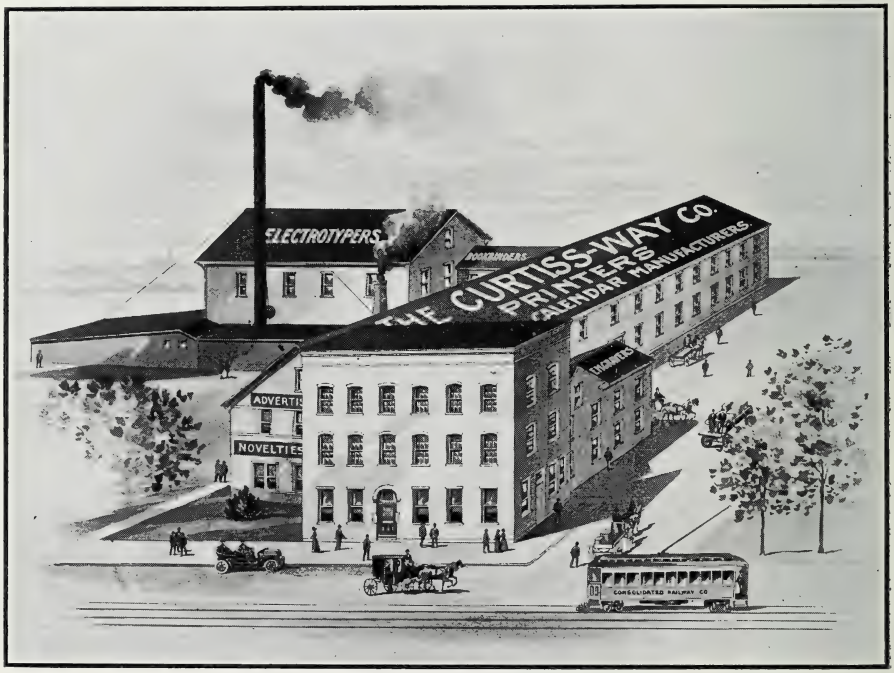
The company has its own separate power house, and is equipped with a forty horse-power Twiss engine and a

sixty horse-power Bigelow steam boiler. The power plant is, therefore, of ample capacity for the machinery and heating, and is also sufficient for generating electricity for lighting, and the company will soon install machinery for the latter purpose. With the new three story brick addition to the factory, the company have buildings 90 feet long by 130 feet deep, all of which have been purchased by them through the legitimate profits of an honorably conducted business during the past six years. This success has been in a great measure due to the executive ability of Mr. Way, who by his indomitable energy and business acumen, has brought the business to its present happy state.

The Curtiss-Way Company employ eight to ten traveling men and have a show room at 335 Broadway, New York City, and another on East Main street, Waterbury, Conn. The work emanating from this complete printing plant, is shipped to every state east of the Mississippi river, and its reputation for twentieth century work and ability to compete with the largest concerns in the country are well known to the trade. Not only has the Curtiss-Way Company a reputation for being a most successful competitor for large contracts in the printing and advertising novelty line but they have the name of completing and shipping their orders when promised. This responsibility rests largely upon the superintendent, F. Ad. Gehring, who assumed that position in 1902, having previously been associated with a large printing concern in Holyoke, Mass. Mr. Gehring, like Mr. Way, is a thoroughly practical printer and understands not only the handling of a large force of employees without friction, but has the faculty for making all things count for the good of the concern, which invariably reverts to the benefit of the customer.

The plant is kept scrupulously neat and clean at all times and a higher class of hands are there employed than in the ordinary printing office. There are also recognized heads of all of the several different departments and wasted time is an unknown quantity at this plant. The cylinder press room contains a large number of automatic feed, perfecting and cylinder and job presses which never cease, only at the blowing of the whistle, and oftentimes different departments of the plant are obliged to run overtime. The composing room comprises an unusually large, well ventilated and lighted department and the number of compositors alone there employed would make a most respectable payroll for a common printing establishment. In addition to the large number of hand compositors, they have a monotype plant which makes and sets its own type and is used largely in book and catalog contracts. The paper ruling room possesses a number of the Hickox Automatic Strike Ruling Machines, which the Curtiss-Way Company find especially useful in their orders of railroad and express company forms and blanks, of which they are extensive manufacturers.

Included in the product of the company are also a large and varied assortment of calendars and calendar pads, and in advertising novelties are, aluminum trays, mirrors, match safes, memorandum books, fancy blotters, paper weights, whiskbroom holders, fans, yard sticks, lead pencils, imported calendars, and a great variety of other novelties used extensively by the trade for advertising purposes, of which space forbids only this partial enumeration.



PLANT OF THE CURTISS-WAY COMPANY.

The large offices of the Curtiss-Way Company, which are now contained in the new three story brick addition, are a source of local pride to Meriden, for they are most handsomely finished in natural color hard wood, and do credit to the good taste of the concern. The high studded ceiling is supported by steel girders and there are no posts to obstruct the office force in their movements. New and handsome furniture harmonizing perfectly with the woodwork gives a most pleasing impression to the visitor and every modern method for facilitating business is immediately at hand. A private telephone system connects with every department of the busy plant, thus bringing the office in closest touch with every portion of its working force. There are private of-

fices for the manager, stenographer and bookkeeper, and a most attractive show room exhibits the pleasing and satisfactory work executed.

W. H. Way, secretary and manager, is a native of Ashfield, Mass. His parents removed to Meriden with him when he was four years of age and he was educated in the Meriden public schools. From the age of twenty, he has been continuously engaged in the job printing and newspaper business. Previous to becoming associated with the company of which he is now manager, he was engaged in his present line of business in Massachusetts. Mr. Way is a man of rare executive ability, and the growth of the Curtiss-Way Company is most substantial evidence of that necessary qualification to success.

HELMSCHMIED MFG. CO.

One of the industries of Meriden, the product of which adds fame to the town, is that carried on by the Helmschmied Mfg. Co., whose factory is located on Reservoir avenue.

C. V. Helmschmied, the founder and president, was born October 30, 1863, in Steinschoenua, Bohemia, where a common school education was followed by a course at the Imperial Technical school of his native town. His marked tendency toward artistic work was fostered by his training and was a vital factor in its development and growth, but he felt that the field was too confined for a realization of his struggling ideals. There was an America beyond the seas where ambitions were nourished and talent recognized. The price he set on his own ability stimulated him to leave Bohemia and seek the seacoast where he embarked for the United States.

Mr. Helmschmied was employed in several cities before coming to Meriden. Directly after landing in New York he went to New Bedford, Mass., where he became a designer for Smith Bros., manufacturers of decorated opal ware; at the end of two years he went to Trenton, N. J., and worked for Jesse Dean at china painting; two more years were spent in New Bedford with the Mount Washington Glass Company as designer.

Mr. Helmschmied's talents as a designer were recognized when he entered the employ of C. F. Monroe in 1886. He aimed at the best and constantly strove to live up to that aim. When the C. F. Monroe Company became incorporated he became a stockholder and was made superintendent of the plant and he was also the leading designer there for sixteen years. He withdrew from Monroe's in January, 1903, opened his own factory and began to manufacture for himself. The corporation known as the Helmschmied Mfg. Co., of which he is president and treasurer, was incorporated in the fall of 1904, the capital stock of which was increased to $10,000 in the spring of 1905. Colonial glass novelties and

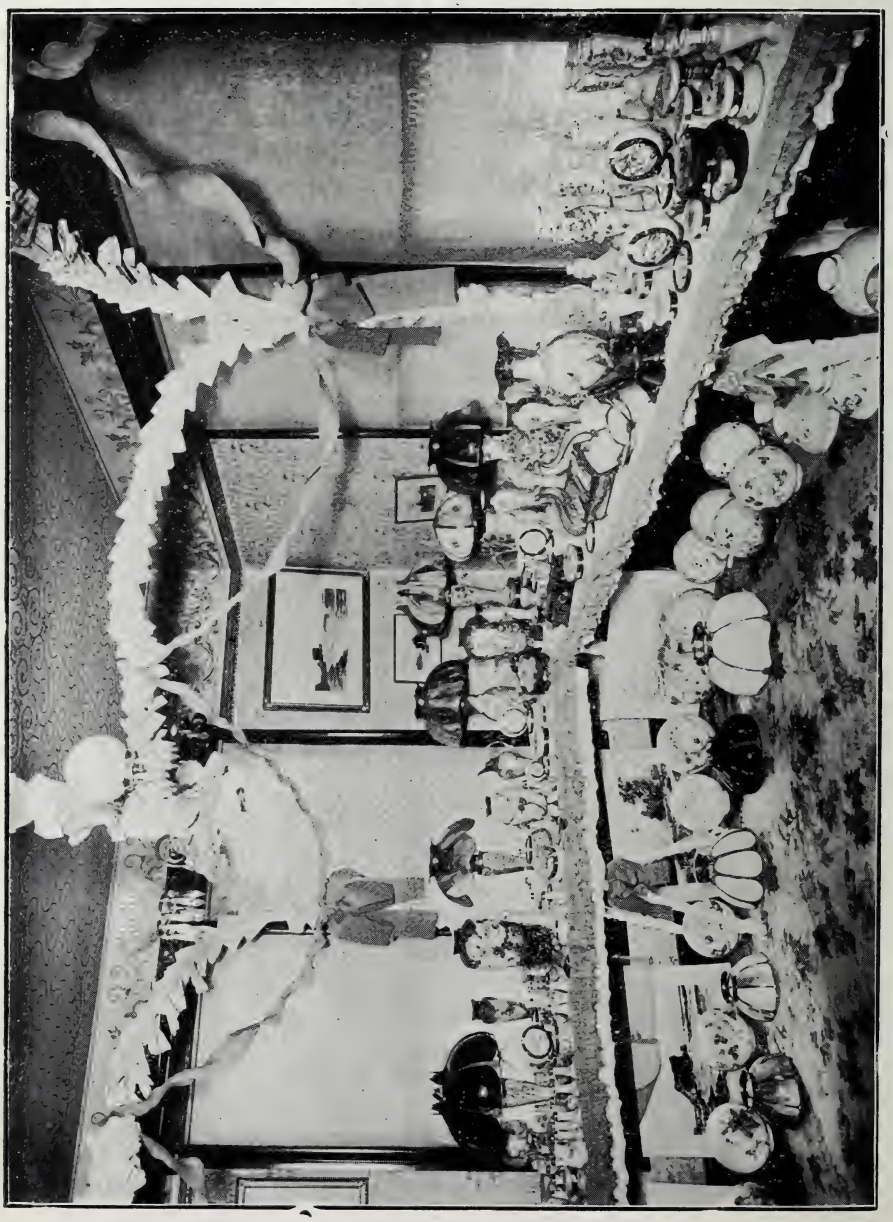


Photo by R. S. Godfrey. SHOW ROOM, HELMSCHMIED MFG. CO.

metal ornaments comprising shades, vases, and other decorated ware from blank glass have since been added to the product.

The factory on Reservoir avenue is a busy center where the finest kind of decorated ware is turned out. The goods are sold direct from the factory and the New York office is at



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

C. V. HELMSCHMIED.

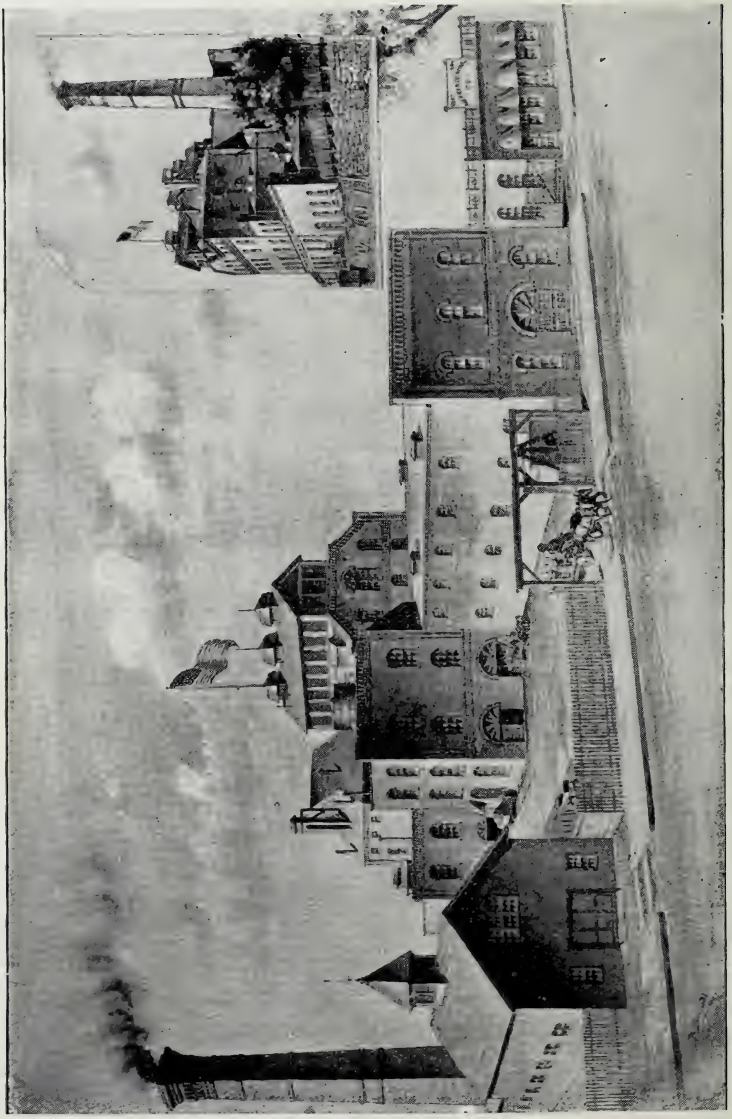
253 Broadway. Owing to an increasing demand for the ware Mr. Helmschmeid now contemplates erecting a new factory, having interested local investors in the project.

Mr. Helmchmied is a member of the Colonial club of Meriden and in politics is a Republican.

CONN. BREWERIES COMPANY.

A manufacturing plant that for many years has added to the volume of local business is that of the Meriden branch of the Connecticut Breweries Company and which was for some years, and until 1890, conducted by the Meriden Brewing Company. It was at that time that the business of the Meriden Brewing Company was consolidated with that of A. Wintter & Co., who conducted a similar plant at Bridgeport and the corporation was formed, known as the Connecticut Breweries Company. The company was organized with many of its employes as stockholders and with a paid in capital stock of $700,000 which amount is far less than the present value of its two large plants.

Since the formation of the present company the officers have changed somewhat owing to deaths which have occurred. The president, Peter W. Wren, of Bridgeport, has presided over the deliberations of the board of directors, however, from the beginning to the present time and under his leadership the business has steadily increased yearly. Within recent years and owing to the deaths of J. H. McMahon, the former general manager, and A. Wintter, the latter who until his decease, held the office of secretary and treasurer, Mr. Wren has had added to his duties those of treasurer and general manager. The vice-president is John A. Hurley, who



MERIDEN PLANT OF THE CONNECTICUT BREWERIES CO.

is especially well known in Meriden, having been formerly manager of the Meriden branch.

J. H. McMahon, son of the deceased general manager, is the secretary of the company. The present manager of the Meriden branch of the company, Michael F. Sullivan, succeeded Robert J. Veit, the former manager, in December, 1903. The present manager of the local plant is a resident of New Haven and previous to coming to Meriden was associated with the Yale Brewing Company. The board of directors of the Connecticut Breweries Company are: Peter W. Wren, John H. McMahon, John A. Hurley, Robert J. Veit and William Hickey.

The Meriden plant is admirably situated for the manufacture and distribution of its product, being located on South Colony street, the rear of the brewing buildings adjoining the main line of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., and from which a side track brings excellent shipping facilities immediately at hand.

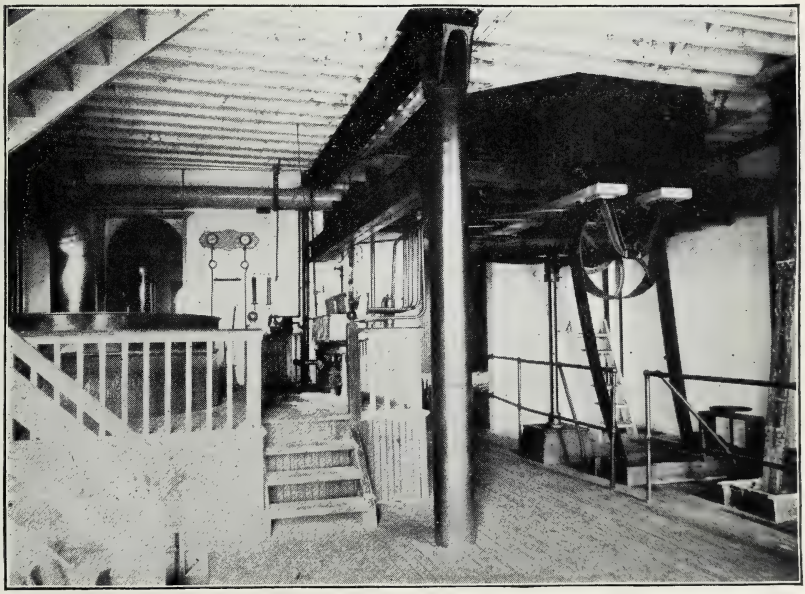


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

KETTLE FLOOR, CONNECTICUT BREWERIES CO.

The plant is kept scrupulously clean and the capacity of the output is 100,000 barrels a year. The material used in the manufacture of the product is the best obtainable and the goods find a ready sale. There is frequently more than one brew a day at the plant which consists of the following buildings: Brewhouse, shipping and storage houses, cold

storage plant five stories in height, kept at the exact temperature of 35 degrees every day in the year; ale fermenting house; artificial ice-making plant, with a capacity of seventy-five tons of ice a day; boiler house containing two 100 horse power boilers; cooperage for the repair of barrels and casks; pitch yard; large and modern stable building laid with asphalt floorings and fitted with steam heat and every comfort for the large number of horses it accommodates and the men employed by the company to keep it in first class order.

In 1894 a new office building was added to the plant which comprises one of the handsomest in the city. The office building is entirely separate from the buildings where the manufacturing is carried on and contains a large counting room as well as a directors' room and manager's private office.

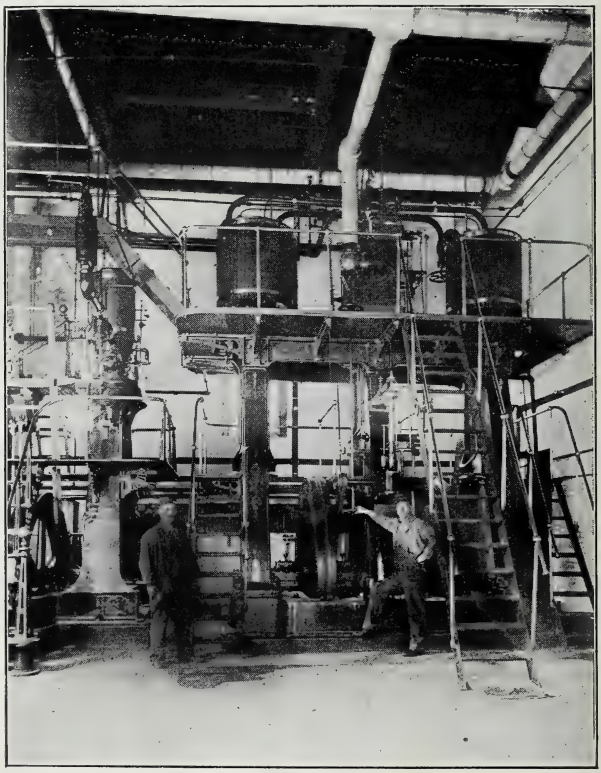
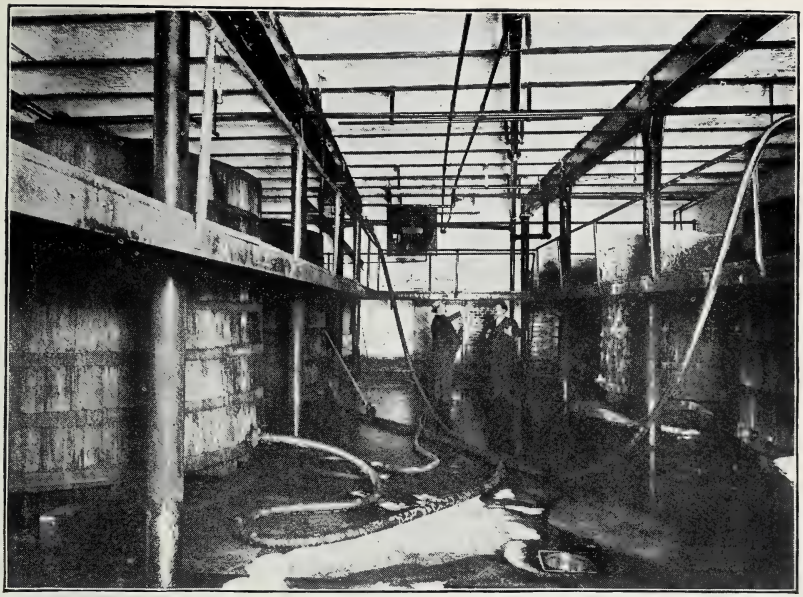


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.
REFRIGERATING PLANT, CONNECTICUT BREWERIES CO.

The product of the plant consists of lager beer, ale and porter, and also special brands which have become somewhat celebrated throughout the



FERMENTING ROOM, CONNECTICUT BREWERIES CO.



Photos by R. S. Godfrey.

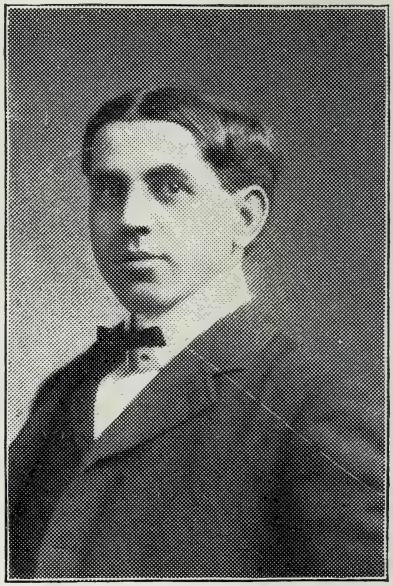
RACKING ROOM, CONNECTICUT BREWERIES CO.

country, notably "Golden Pale Ale" and "Pale Extra Lager." The company has well established agencies in several leading cities of the country and naturally supplies a large portion of the lager beer and ale consumed within a radius of several miles of each of its plants. The company does a large bottling business and its goods in this department are not only shipped largely to New York, New Jersey and the national capitol but have also become known and popular with the trade in nearly every state in the union. The product of the company also finds its way at regular intervals to foreign climes and a special brand, rated among the choicest of foreign beverages, is exported to South America, Cuba and the Bahama Islands.

The company employs about sixty workmen at its Meriden plant and with its large pay roll adds many thousands to the amount distributed annually to the well paid employes of Meriden manufacturing plants.

FRITZ BROTHERS.

Fritz Brothers, composed of E. T. and W. F. Fritz, are the successors to the dog collar manufacturing business formerly carried on by the Connecticut Saddlery & Bell Company, of whose factory they occupy a portion and whose reputation they have added to in marked degree. They purchased the business in May, 1903, and have every facility for turning out their goods in large quantities. The members of the firm, who are both natives of Meriden, were no strangers to the business when they took possession of the factory; for one of the brothers was the founder of the dog collar department of the concern they have succeeded and has had fifteen years' experience both as a maker of the goods and a traveling man. His brother, W. F. Fritz, also had a wide



W. F. FRITZ.

experience in the same line of manufacturing, having been previously employed at the Chapman Mfg. Co. They now hold the distinction of being the only exclusive dog collar manufacturers in the state. Besides making over 400 different styles of dog collars, including the Boston bull collar which alone has made their name famous, they are makers of leather

muzzles, leads and harness for canines and are dealers in dog collar bells, locks, brushes, combs, whips and blankets. They also manufacture trout basket straps and skate straps



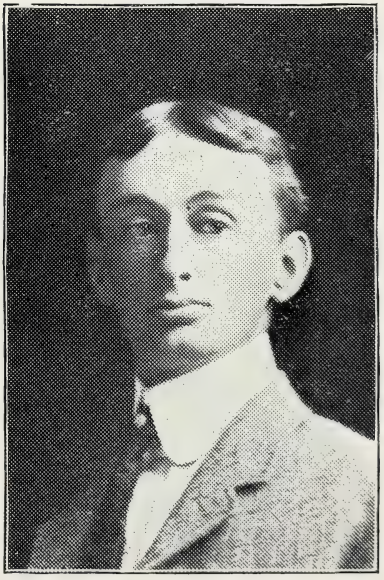
E. T. FRITZ.

for the trade and their goods are shipped to all parts of the country.

They have a branch office in Chicago at 1228 George street and employ three traveling salesmen. The manufacture of their goods gives the Fritz Brothers an opportunity to display much judgment and good taste and their success is attested by the demand for their output. While both are practical manufacturers of dog collars and furnishings and are well known to the large trade they supply, E. T. Fritz, as a rule, devotes his time to the factory and W. F. Fritz to calling upon the trade. The industry carried on by them furnishes employment to several hands during the busy season and the goods made add no little to the reputation of Meriden as a manufacturing town.

SILVER CITY CUT GLASS CO.

One of the newest manufacturing concerns of Meriden is the Silver City Cut Glass Company, who since June 1, 1905, have conducted a busy plant on Hicks street. Their factory, which is a two-story wooden structure, is



PERCY PHOENIX.

that formerly occupied by the Hicks Novelty Company. Articles of cut glass of nearly every form and description comprise the product and the concern has already earned a reputa-

tion from the high character of the work emanating from their factory.

The officers of the company are as follows: President, Percy Phoenix; vice-president, A. Abecurnos; secretary and treasurer, Joseph Schnick. They are all young men and the enterprise in which they are engaged is their first start in business for themselves.

All the principals and employes are residents of Meriden. The president is an expert cutter and designer, formerly employed by the Meriden Cut



A. ABECURNOS.

Glass Company and the C. F. Monroe Company. The vice president, and secretary and treasurer are likewise young men of talent and ability and secured a wide experience in practical glass cutting at the factory of the Meriden Cut Glass Company.

The factory is equipped with the most modern machinery from their earnings as employes for others. The



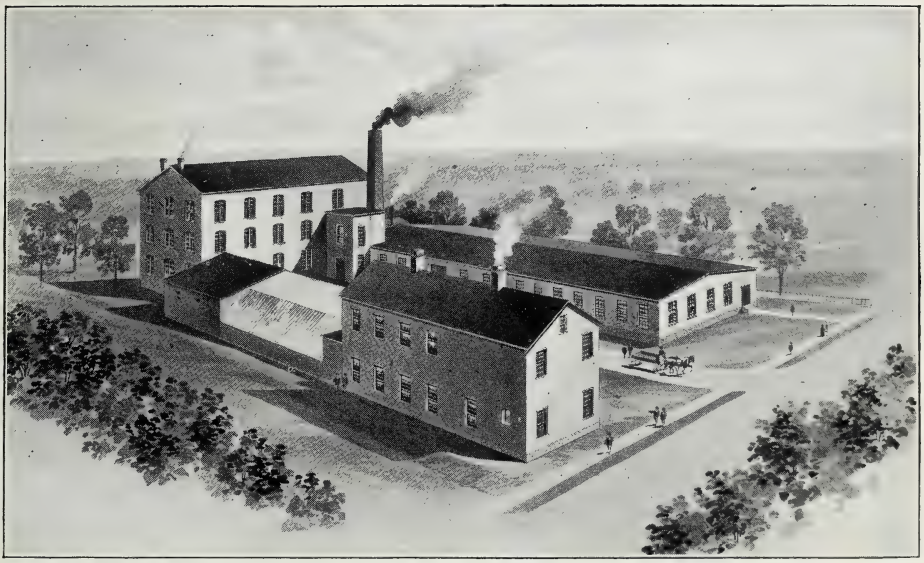
JOSEPH SCHNICK.

frames are the new adjustable style and the power is electric motor with a capacity for thirty frames. The show room is on the second floor and is well worth a visit by strangers to Meriden during the Centennial week.

THE MERIDEN GRAVURE CO.

In the above named company, Meriden possesses the only plant in the state given up to the exclusive production of photo-gelatine prints; and the business, which was established in

1888, has now become one of the largest in its exclusive product in the United States. The business has grown steadily from the start and the character of the work has established the standard of the trade. Illustrations for catalogues, books, magazine inserts and a general line of reproductions comprise the output which is creditable both to the city and the state.



PLANT OF THE MERIDEN GRAVURE CO.

The business of the company has always been conducted in the same location; but in recent years several new buildings have been constructed to meet increasing requirements, the plant now extending through to Billard street, where since 1905, the company's office has been located. Beginning with a few local customers the business has grown till now the company supplies a trade extending to nearly every state in the Union. The Gravure Company was the first in its line to produce practical illustrations for commercial purposes, and being the first in the field has held the lead to the present time. The company has a plant remarkably well fitted for the extensive and economical prosecution of the work which they produce.

The officers of the company, both of whom are well known residents of Meriden and interested in its growth and prosperity, are: J. F. Allen, president and treasurer, and O. W. Bassett, secretary. A New York office is maintained at the American Tract Society Building, 150 Nassau street.

A. H. JONES.

Augustus Howard Jones, manufacturer of Meriden, is the son of Joseph and Martha (Jackson) Jones, both natives of Wales. He was born in New York City, December 21, 1851. His father died when he was nine

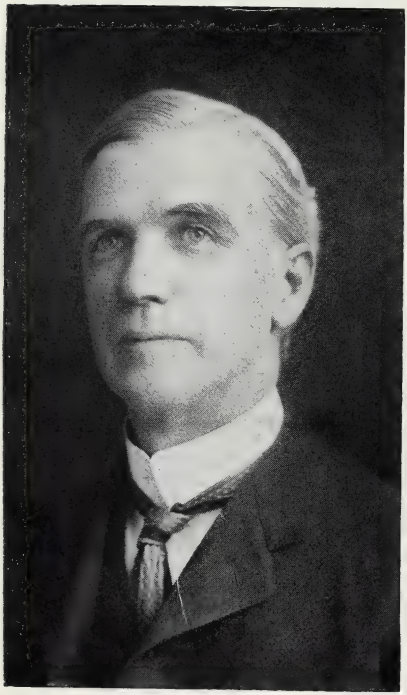


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
AUGUSTUS H. JONES.

years of age and at twelve he began to earn his livelihood, after which he attended the night school until the age of fifteen, when he returned to day school for a year and finished his education.

In 1866 he began his apprenticeship in a brass foundry where he served four years and a half learning his trade. He became an expert coremaker and a contractor in the manufacture of locks. In 1867 he came to Meriden where he has since remained. After serving two years as foreman in the brass foundry at the Bradley & Hubbard factory, he started a brass foundry of his own which, however, he gave up in two weeks and returned as foreman for the B. & H. Mfg. Co., who had made it an object for him to do so.

In 1882, he was one of the organizers of the Foster Hardware Co., which in 1885 was reorganized under the name of the Meriden Bronze Co., and of which large concern, Mr. Jones became president in 1891. That concern for many years furnished employment to a large number of hands and added materially to the business prosperity of the town. Financial depression forced the Bronze Company out of business and Mr. Jones' personal loss was $100,000.

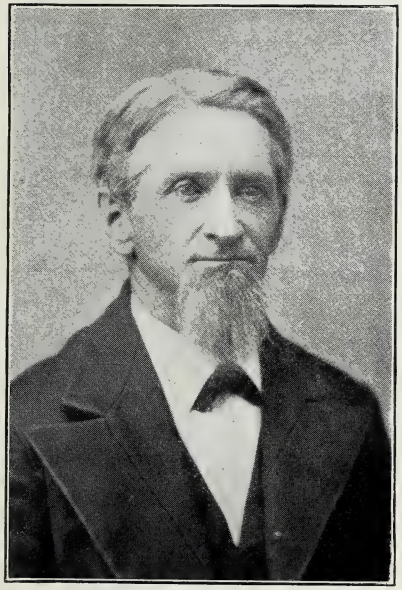
With characteristic courage and grit, in 1901, he organized the company and started the factory since located on Miller street, which now bears his name and where he has since, from a small beginning, been engaged in the manufacture of white metal novelties.

Mr. Jones is a thirty-second degree Mason, has served in the city government four years as councilman and two years as alderman, is a member of the Home Club and of genial and companionable nature. He was married in 1870 to Jennie E. Logan,

daughter of Thomas and Marguerite Logan. They attend the First Congregational church.

BAILEY'S STEAM LAUNDRY.

Numerically, this was the tenth laundry established in Meriden, and was the first to be continued successfully; and at this writing it is the largest and finest equipped establishment of the kind in the city.



THEODORE F. BAILEY.

The nucleus of the present business was formed by Theodore F. Bailey, an old and respected resident of Meriden, and his first operations were small. In 1895 his daughter, Mrs. Hattie L. Aubrey, became the head, and since that time the growth of the business has been somewhat remarkable. In May, 1896, the present laundry building in the rear of Mr. Bailey's residence on Crown street, was erected, and the introduction of machinery transformed the industry from a hand to a steam laundry. Since that time machinery for steam carpet cleaning has also been put in, and a large business in that line is now carried on. In 1905 a large barn was erected and added to the plant, the upper portion of which now contains the carpet cleaning machinery, and this work is, therefore, now carried on in a separate building. The power used comes from the laundry's own boiler house, which in 1905 was installed with a new $1,000 boiler. Another advantage the laundry enjoys is an artesian well, sunk on the premises, which supplies an abundance of water for all purposes outside the engine room. Both floors of the main building, which is 60 by 40 feet, are now used for the purposes of the laundry; the sorting, washing, starching, mangling and delivering being done on the first floor, and the ironing, since 1905, on the second floor.

Among the commendable characteristics of this laundry are promptness in the delivery of work. The fact that a woman's eye supervises the work also adds to the reputation of the laundry for careful work.

Mrs. Aubrey has proven herself a most capable manager of the now successful business, and is assisted by her youngest son, William R. Aubrey, and a force of twenty-five employes.

BEAVER LAKE ICE CO.

The Beaver Lake Ice Company, wholesale and retail dealers in ice, of Meriden, came under its present management early in June, 1905, when the corporation was formed with the capital stock of $15,500.

The origin of the business, under its present name, dates back to 1894, when the late William Garlick, of South Meriden, withdrew from the Meriden Ice Company, after having been for five years its president and having many years previous to that bought out his father's ice business. The company as now organized, was formed through the efforts of Benj. F. Milner, the present secretary and treasurer, a native of Meriden, who attended the local public schools and has ever been a promoter of local interests. Through his instrumentality the corporation purchased from his estate the business so successfully carried on by Mr. Garlick, including the ice houses, harvesting privileges, horses, wagons, custom and good will.

Since the business came into the present hands many improvements have been made to the equipment and new office headquarters, stables and central ice depot have been established, all of which are located at 100 State street, where there are excellent railroad facilities and ample accommodations for a larger business.

Beaver Lake, the principal source of supply and from which the company derives its name, is one of the many healthful bodies of water in the vicinity of Meriden entirely fed with springs and which the company keep well freed from vegetable growth. As a result the ice harvested in their large ice houses, of 10,000 tons capacity, is of the most healthful character. The full ice harvesting capacity of the lake is much greater than that required by the company.

While the quality and service of the Beaver Lake Ice Company have ever been commended by the people of Meriden, whom they supply, the new company has always strived to excel in this regard the good name established by Mr. Garlick, and this, with added capital and increased force, they have been enabled to do in no small measure.

The red teams of the company are familiar sights on the numerous streets and avenues of this vicinity; and courtesy, good weight and honest treatment, those qualifications which have ever characterized the business of the concern through its several changes in management, are ever apparent. The management also is not only progressive but liberal and being familiar with the needs of the public from previous connection with the ice business, fully realize the meeting of competition. The officers of the company are Charles E. Curtis, president, and Benjamin F. Milner, secretary and treasurer; the former being also a well known financier and a vice-president of the City Bank of New Haven and the latter from his birth a Meriden "boy" but now and for the past six years also cashier and office manager



BENJAMIN F. MILNER.

of the New Haven Ice Company. The directors of the company are Charles E. Curtis, Benjamin F. Milner and Samuel A. York.

WILLIAM J. LUBY.

One of the successful young business men of Meriden is Willliam J. Luby. He is the son of the late Maur-



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
WILLIAM J. LUBY.

ice Luby and Ellen (Ryan) Luby. His father, who died in 1899, conducted the monument business for some twenty years in the same location now occupied by his son, whose works on Hanover street now cover about one acre and a half of ground, and there some of the finest specimens of art are executed.

His reputation as a designer and builder of monuments has been earned solely by the high merits of his work. His business establishment gives steady employment to well paid men and the specimens of art as thus exemplified by him are highly creditable to the town.

W. J. Luby was born on Columbia street, Meriden, December 28, 1879. He attended the public schools of this town, and after two years at the High school, took a course at the Pequod Business College. From early boyhood he was constantly associated with his father's monument works, and at an early age he showed a gift for drawing, which talent has been a most necessary and desirable qualification in his business.

After his father's death he bought his present business from the estate, and that he has increased the operations of the works quite largely is a well known fact. His talent for designing beautiful monuments has made his name somewhat famous, and the specimens of art modeled at his works, more frequently are shipped to places far outside of Meriden, than those which adorn local cemeteries. It was Mr. Luby who designed the famous Clara Barton monument that has attracted such favorable attention and also the Atwater Memorial monument at Terryville.

Mr. Luby is a member of Meriden Lodge, 35, B. P. O. Elks, the Meriden Young Men's T. A. B. Society, Div. 2, A. O. H., and Meriden Business Men's Association.

He stands well as a citizen of the town which this year celebrates its centennial and is deservedly popular among a large circle of acquaintances. Since starting upon his business career he has done his utmost toward the upbuilding of the Silver City where he has always lived.

CHARLES E. SCHUNACK.

Charles Emil Schunack, a progressive manufacturer of paper boxes and silverware cases in Meriden, also a dealer in piano stools, chairs, benches, scarfs and music cabinets in New York City, was born in Spremburg, Germany, November 15, 1859. His father was Gustav Schunack, a native of the same locality and a manufacturer of woolen cloth, who married Louisa Lange, who with their two children, including the subject of this sketch and his sister Emmy, emigrated to this country in 1873, the following year removing to Meriden where his father died in 1899.

Charles E. Schunack obtained his education in Germany and upon coming to this country, at the age of fourteen, entered the mills at Webster where the family first located before coming to Meriden; but in 1874 he secured employment in the bronze department of the Meriden Malleable Iron Company where he remained five years and devoted himself industriously and conscientiously to the interests of his employers. In 1879 he became a contractor in the bronze department of the factory of Hart, Bliven & Meade at Kensington, but after five years he returned to Meriden and took charge of the lamp department of the Chas. Parker Co., where he continued for many years.

He began business as a box manufacturer in 1891, locating on Randolph avenue, in a structure that was first intended for a large stable but which has been remodeled and added to and comprises a paper box factory of modern pattern. From a small beginning his business has increased to goodly proportions, the output of the factory comprising paper and leather boxes of any desired style or description and fancy cases for silverware. Mr. Schunack's factory is equipped with modern machinery.

In 1901 he opened a large salesroom at 115 and 117 East 14th street, New York, where he sells piano stools, benches, chairs, scarfs and music cabinets manufactured by the Chas. Parker Co., of Meriden, and has since divided his time between his New York and Meriden offices.

Mr. Schunack is ably assisted at the factory by his only sister, Emmy Schunack, a lady of much business ability and thorough understanding of the work. Success in all his undertakings has brought Mr. Schunack into prominence in the manufacturing circles of the town where he is known as a man of modern ideas, energy and vigor. His ability to please the trade he supplies from his factory has been a great factor in his success in Meriden; while his natural aptitude as a salesman and genial good fellowship



Photo by Akers & Pigeon.

C. E. Schumack

have also made him popular at the metropolis. He is married to Rhoda Baldwin, of Kensington, a lady of refinement and they have two children, Mildred and Elsie. Mr. Schunack is thoroughly identified with the life of Meriden, being a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., Pilgrims' Harbor Council, R. A., and, with his wife and children, attends the First Congregational Church.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FACTORY OF A. J. HALL & CO.

A. J. HALL & CO.

A. J. Hall & Co., manufacturers of decorated ware, and whose output is decidedly creditable to this town, conduct a factory at the corner of Mechanic and George streets. The industry was started in a small way in 1899 by Arthur J. Hall. His first location was on Mill street and at the beginning Mr. Hall, with his own hands, executed most of the work emanating from the factory, making his own designs. After a short time he received a sufficient number of orders to warrant his employing help and the business gradually developed, through the desirable qualities of the product, until it outgrew its quarters; and it was in 1900 the present factory building, which possesses an excellent railroad frontage, was removed to. Before the end of the first year of its business, James D. Bergen, president of the J. D. Bergen Co., of Meriden, purchased a half interest from Mr. Hall, and this he still retains.

The firm occupy the entire building and at their show rooms and offices are exhibited for the benefit of both wholesale and retail customers, specimens of their artistic and salable output. They manufacture gas

and lamp shades, decorated novelties, including tobacco jars and cracker jars, vases, bric-a-brac, and many other goods which add to their reputation. In keeping with the spirit of the period, they have issued many novelties in copyrighted designs as fitting mementos of the old home week in which Meriden celebrates its Centennial anniversary.

which now extends the full length of the building, a distance of 290 feet, and with more recent enlargements the concern now possesses a street frontage of about seventy-five feet.

The working force has, from necessity, been increased in proportion, until they now employ fifty skilled workmen, and are capable of producing anything in cut glass from a five-

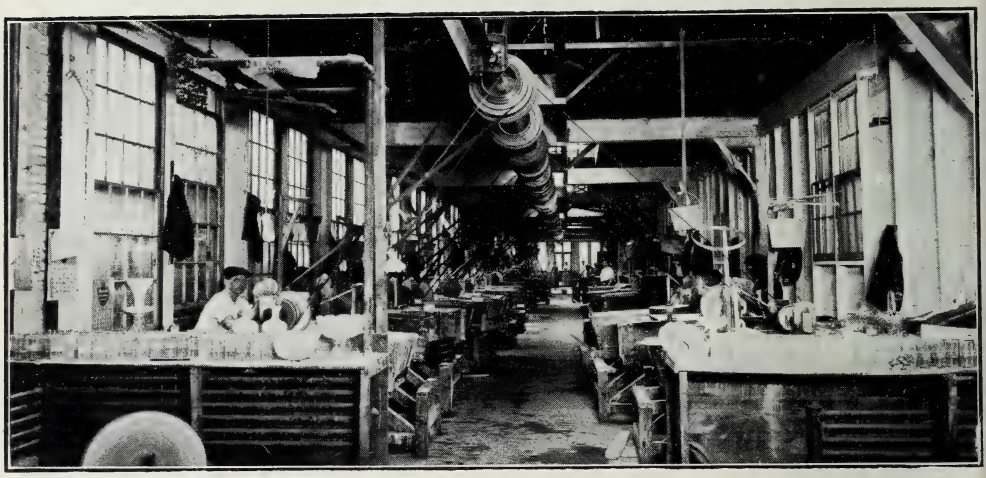


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

AT J. J. NILAND & CO.'S FACTORY.

J. J. NILAND & CO.

J. J. Niland & Co., now fast coming to occupy a position in the front ranks of the successful business concerns of this city, was started about 1902. The first quarters occupied consisted of a room in the Morehouse building on Miller street, which in a short time proved too small for the fast growing business, and they found it necessary to enlarge their plant,

cent caster bottle, to a thousand dollar vase. James J. Niland is the enterprising head of the concern, and to his practical knowledge of the business may be attributed the phenomenal success achieved by the concern. With every detail of the glass cutting industry he has become thoroughly familiar, having worked at the business continuously from boyhood. He served six years' apprenticeship at the trade, and came to Meriden after having worked

a few years in some of the leading glass factories of England and Scotland.

Upon coming to this town he at once associated himself with the Bergen & Niland Company, then on State street, with whom he continued until his ambition prompted him to try his fortune as a manufacturer on his own account. The show rooms of J. J.

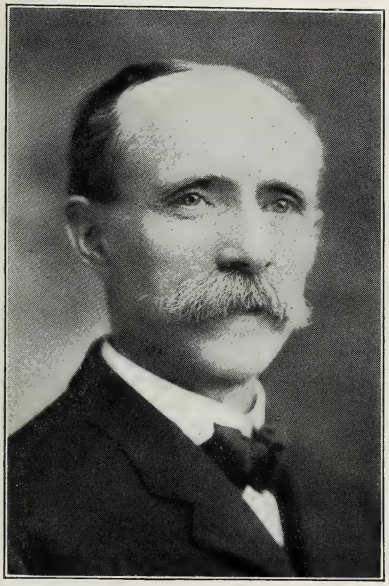


Photo by Akers & Pigeon.
JAMES J. NILAND.

Niland & Co. at the factory on Miller street, contain a line of cut glass seldom equalled for variety, quality and moderate prices, and visitors whether prospective buyers or not are invariably delighted with the exhibition there contained. The product of this factory in its entirety is from the crude blank to the finished ornament and the patterns of the company are not only original but radically different from unscrupulous imitations. Among the customers of this concern are Tiffany & Co., celebrated jewelers of New York City, and many leading glass and crockery dealing concerns, including Higgins & Seiter, also of New York. The product adds no little fame to Meriden and the industry gives employment to well paid hands, thereby adding to the prosperity of the town.

THE JENNINGS & GRIFFIN MFG. CO.

A manufacturing concern, within a quarter of a century grown to large proportions, and whose product has ever added distinction to this locality, is The Jennings & Griffin Mfg. Co., with factory at Tracy. The plant which now covers a large area in a situation most favorable to the manufacture of its goods, especially within the past year, has been noticeably enlarged and improved.

It was in 1880 that Charles E. Jennings and Francis B. Griffin, whose names have long since been synonyms for the highest grade of mechanics' tools, in a modest way started to make for themselves a reputation. Their aim was to excel in their line of manufacture; and having a full understanding of the wants of the trade, and the way to supply them, they could scarcely fail of success. They filled their orders with honest goods; and having always continued to do so,

prosperity has been their fit reward. Gradually the factory has grown and new machinery has replaced the old, until they have become enabled to produce edge tools and boring implements in large quantities, used by mechanics in every part of the civilized world. The company at the present day owns about twenty acres of land on both sides of the railroad track, including where the factory is situated enabling the company to supply a greatly increased demand for edge tools. The first building erected this year is 32x48 feet, and the last addition, comprising a practically fireproof building, is 46x88 feet in dimensions.

The recent additions have also given the company the opportunity to make various other notable improvements to the plant. The forge fires in the new



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

FRONT OF JENNINGS & GRIFFIN MFG. CO.

and where nine dwelling houses have been erected by them for their employes. While the factory has been gradually enlarged from the beginning, the addition of two more buildings in 1906, when Meriden celebrates its 100th anniversary, gives the plant a frontage of 200 feet and a length, east and west, of 400 feet. The new additions were for the purpose of building will be fed with fuel oil supplied by a pipe from a tank located at the Yalesville station of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad, about 100 yards from the factory. The company also expect to make their own gas for running their auxiliary engine, and have, as well, a second supply of gas from the Wallingford gas works. The old style hammers have been replaced

with the latest pattern power hammers, enabling the company to increase their output materially. With the aid of the Quinnipiac river, from which the factory has always been supplied with water power, and the auxiliary supply of gas, the factory has now a combined motive power of 215 horse power. A deep well, which the company has possessed at their plant for some years, furnishes pure, cold water for all other purposes. Among other improvements possessed by The Jennings & Griffin Mfg. Co., is their own electric lighting plant.



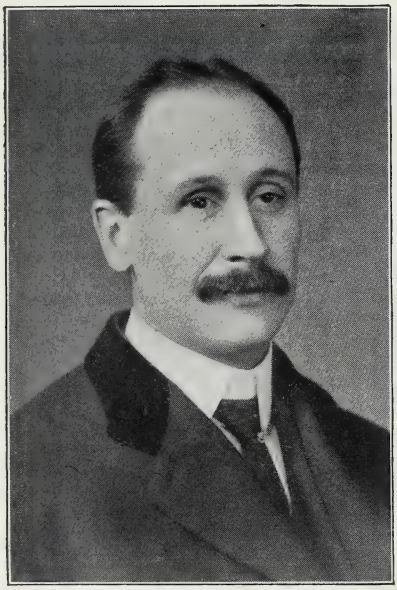
Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

REAR OF JENNINGS & GRIFFIN MFG. CO.

The product consists of high grade mechanics' tools, including edge tools and boring implements of every description. The goods are turned out complete from the raw material and in great variety being trade marked with an arrow head, in the center of which is the letter (J); this trade mark is in itself a familiar passport in the trade, and indicates that the articles made upon honor are the genuine C. E. Jennings tool. The company also manufactures the original L'Hommedieu & Watrous ship augers, those brands well known to the hardware and shipbuilding trade all over the world. The L'Hommedieu brand has been on the market since 1818. For many years the company has maintained headquarters in New York City, and their salesrooms at the metropolis are at 42 Murray street.

Both Messrs. Jennings and Griffin, the former of whom is president, and the latter secretary and treasurer, spend a large portion of their time in New York looking after the trade,

which has now grown to large proportions. For some years the factory has been in charge of A. B. Jennings, the superintendent, a son of the president, who having grown up with the business, like the other officers of the com-



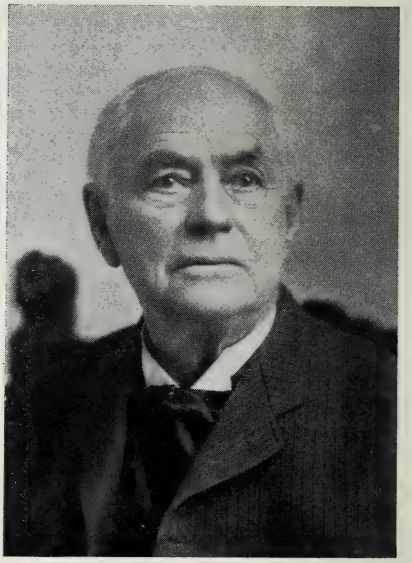
A. B. JENNINGS.

pany, is a thoroughly practical man. Many of the factory employes have become prominent in civic life, and the factory from the large amount of business carried on has for many years been the largest factor in that now important community of Tracy.

THE GRISWOLD, RICHMOND & GLOCK CO.

The Griswold, Richmond & Glock Company, manufacturers, jobbers, tin roofers, large cornice and skylight makers, extensive dealers in crockery, glassware, stoves, ranges, furnaces, refrigerators, house furnishing goods and bicycles, has for many years been one of the institutions of Meriden. They occupy two stories of a building fronting West Main street at the corner of Hanover street, and extending along Hanover street for 165 feet.

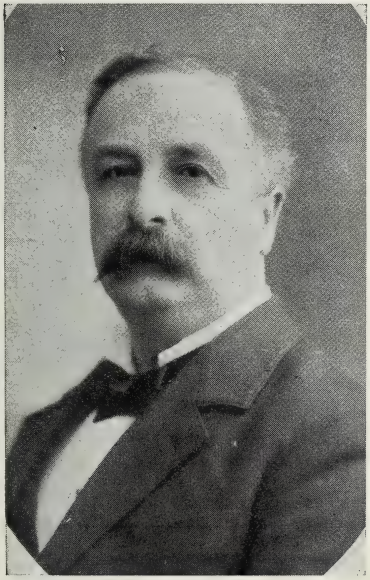
The business has grown to its present large proportions from the start made by N. F. Griswold in 1854. Since that time there have been sev-



N. F. GRISWOLD.

eral changes in the makeup of the concern, but never in its history has the store enjoyed anything but an excellent reputation. After having later become known as Gris-

wold, Lewis & Glock, it became Griswold, Richmond & Glock and in 1889 was organized as a stock company with a capital of $50,000, many of its employes being given holdings of the stock as an incentive for hard



CHARLES C. GLOCK.

and conscientious work. This it may be said has accrued to the benefit of the corporation which, in turn, has grown to such an extent that it has become one of the leading trade concerns of the town. Never since its organization as a corporation has any of its stock been held by any one outside of its founders and those otherwise employed in the store, and all of the original owners and stockholders are living excepting John L. Richmond, the interest of whose widow was purchased by the concern in January, 1905.

The store, within recent years especially, has been conducted on an extensive scale and it is hard indeed for one, either a wholesale or retail customer, to inquire for anything which he might naturally expect to be found in the store but what can be instantly produced by the energetic and painstaking clerks. At their work shop, in the rear of the store, facing on Hanover street, about twenty-five hands are employed in the manufacture of tin, sheet iron, zinc and copper ware as well as gal-



CHARLES W. GLOCK.

vanized iron cornice work and skylights, in which they are prepared to make and fill important contracts anywhere. The interior of the store conducted by this low-priced co-operative company, is one of the most attrac-

tive of any in Meriden. The great display of china, crockery and glassware which comprises a separate department in itself is much visited by the buying public.

In reference to the success of this co-operative concern, it may be said that the proverbial fair treatment of all patrons has been a strong factor.

The individual members are well known citizens of Meriden who have for many years been reckoned among those who have had its interests in view. The president, N. F. Griswold, is one of the oldest business men in his line in the state and consequently one of the most favorably known. The personal sketch of his extended business career is contained elsewhere in this book and gives also the different changes in the makeup of the concern from the very first. To the treasurer of the company, Charles C. Glock, upon whom a large portion of the management now rests, is the credit due for the development of the manufacturing strength of the concern and the extension of its business operations to points far outside of Meriden. Some years since he was succeeded as superintendent of the factory by his son, Charles W. Glock, a young man of great business ability and a thorough master of the tinsmith and cornice making trades. He has been secretary of the concern since the death of Mr. Richmond. Others holding stock and associated with the concern are: A. H. Evarts, John Kopp, John Dittmer, John Heinrich, Sr., Ernest F. Yenkner, Fred Minkmeier, Andreas Reiski, John Heinrich, Jr., Geo. Heinrich, C. S. Clark and Martin Lemke.

THE H. T. SMITH EXPRESS CO.

The business of the H. T. Smith Express Co. has grown to its present proportions from the small start made by the late Horace T. Smith, who



HORACE T. SMITH.

came to Meriden from Plymouth, Vt., in 1854. In 1859 he started business for himself. During the first few years of his residence here, he was employed by the late Deacon R. B. Perkins, who then conducted an express business.

Mr. Smith started with four horses and his barn was then located near

the original shop of the Meriden Britannia Company, what is now known as "over east." Among his first operations was the drawing of the underpinning of the old town hall. When the Britannia Company was reorganized and moved to its present location, Mr. Smith moved his business to Stone street, later to Grove street, then to State street, and since 1876 to the present location at the corner of Camp and State streets. Early in August, 1892, his barn was totally destroyed by fire. A larger barn has since been built on the same spot, and comprises one of the largest used for its purpose in the state.

At the time of his death, 1897, Mr. Smith had built up not only an enviable reputation for reliability as a teamster, but was known as one of the most enterprising and industrious citizens of the town. Since the death of Mr. Smith the business has been conducted by George P. Smith and C. H. Tredennick, and in November, 1901, was incorporated as the H. T. Smith Express Co., George P. Smith being president, and C. H. Tredennick, secretary and treasurer.

During the past few years and especially since the corporation was formed, this old established express and trucking business has been largely increased. The business as conducted by Mr. Smith, required from twenty-eight to thirty-five horses, but at the present time requires about double that number; and the company is fully equipped to handle, not only the smallest express packages, but the largest kind of machinery and merchandise.

MOREHOUSE BROTHERS CO.

The Morehouse Bros. Co., one of the largest manufacturers of building material in the state, was organized in April, 1898, under the statute laws of the state of Connecticut. They occupy the one-story brick factory building, 20-26 Miller street, which is fully equipped for the economical and convenient handling of their work. The mill is 100 feet wide and 264 feet long and the work carried on is of a high grade and even artistic character, which necessitates the employment of the highest skilled workmen, about twenty-five of whom find steady employment. The product of the mill is not confined to this city alone but is shipped to all sections of the state and the reputation of the concern reflects credit upon Meriden. The president of the company, Henry L. Morehouse, is a well known building contractor. Andrew C. Morehouse, the treasurer and active head of the industry, is a son of Henry L. Morehouse, and was born in New Haven, Conn., July 31, 1874, his parents removing with him to Meriden when he was six years old. Having previously attended for a short time a private school in New Haven he continued his education in the public schools of this city and at the age of fourteen went to work for his father to learn the business which he has followed continuously ever since with the

exception of six months' attendance at business college. Under his father's guidance and instruction he became familiar with all the different branches of building and mill work and, therefore, before he became a member of the firm he was thoroughly familiar with every branch of the business. Mr. Morehouse is a member of the various local Masonic bodies including Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and St. Elmo Commandery, 9, Knights Templar. Few young business men of the city apply themselves more closely to business or find more enjoyment in their home life. He was married June 30, 1897, to Charlotte L., daughter of Mrs. Susan E. Smith, of Clinton, Conn., and they have five living children as follows: Henry L., Walter Franklin, Andrew C. Jr., Edna Geneva and Robert Allison.

THE DEXTER L. BISHOP CO.

The Dexter L. Bishop Company, a corporation comprising the largest concern in Meriden engaged in the ice business and also dealing in native lumber, was organized in January, 1898. The company of which Dexter L. Bishop has been the secretary, treasurer and general manager from its formation, is the outcome of the business established by the Foster Brothers, for whom Foster Lake is named and also includes that of the Meriden Ice Co. and Dayton & Sherman. In 1895 Dexter L. Bishop bought an interest in the firm, and one year later bought the interest of the remaining partners. Seeing the possibilities for the future, he wisely merged the business into an incorporated company. The original capital stock of $3,000, was increased in 1903 to $30,000.

The company owns extensive ice houses, and controls the ice harvested at Foster Lake, The Bradley & Hubbard reservoir, and several smaller



DEXTER L. BISHOP.

ponds around Meriden with the combined harvesting capacity of 70,000 tons. The ice houses at Foster Lake have a storage capacity of 8,500 tons, and during the harvesting season sixty-five men are employed on the lake. The ice supplied to the people of Meriden from this source is of rare purity, and this is made possible only by the purity of the Foster Lake water which

is fed largely by natural springs. Great care is taken in harvesting the ice, and from two to three inches are planed off the surface before being housed. The analysis of the ice of this company has also been made by a chemist who pronounces it of exceptional purity.

The wagons of the company are continuously making deliveries in all parts of Meriden, and during the summer season the services of thirty-five



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

ICE HARVESTING PLANT AT FOSTER LAKE.

men and forty horses are required to meet the demands made upon them for their ice. The delivery depot and office headquarters are at 16 Center street, where ample accommodations are at hand for the prosecution of a large business. The company deal also in native lumber, and during the winter season employ their men in this branch of the business, temporary saw mills being put up in the woods where the lumber is secured.

The active head and founder of the company, Dexter L. Bishop, is one of Meriden's most energetic and reliable business men. He is a son of the late Walter G. Bishop, and was born at Orange, Conn., August 8, 1865. He spent his early boyhood on the home farm, and acquired a rugged physique which he still retains. When quite young his parents moved to Guilford, where his father engaged in agricultural pursuits.

In 1886, to satisfy a laudable desire for mercantile life, he came to Meriden, and entered the employ of Little, Somers & Hyatt, where he gained the merited confidence both of his employers and the buying public by a most intelligent and faithful performance of his duty, and uniform courtesy to all the patrons of the

store with whom he came in contact. His entry into the ice business, and the subsequent formation of the company which bears his name, was the natural outcome of his enterprise, business activity and reliability, and the success to which he has guided the business reflects upon his judgment and business acumen with full credit.

Outside of business Mr. Bishop has been an active spirit in the life of Meriden. In 1900-1901 he served as a member of the board of aldermen, being elected from the Fifth ward. During his connection with the city government he proved to be a wise counselor to his associates in the transaction of city affairs. He was appointed and served on several important special committees with credit to his constituents and the city. He is a member of Center Lodge, 97, F. & A. M., Keystone Chapter, No. 27, and St. Elmo Commandery, No. 9, K. T. He is now serving his second term as president of the Meriden Business Men's Association, also secretary of the State Business Men's Association, and is a member of the general committee of the Meriden Centennial celebration. He stands high in social circles, and is a member of both the Home and Colonial Clubs of Meriden.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

DISTRIBUTING DEPOT, D. L. BISHOP CO.

In 1891 he was united in marriage with Esther C., daughter of C. G. Johnson, who during his life was a leading citizen of Meriden, and a large real estate dealer. His home is blessed with two bright children, Ethel Johnson and Wilfred Merriman. Mr. Bishop is a direct lineal descendant on the maternal side of Gov. William

Leete, first governor of the Connecticut Colonies, and on the paternal side, of James Bishop, one of the deputy governors of New Haven colony. He is also an active member of the Center Congregational church of Meriden, and one of the trustees of the Meriden Young Women's Christian Association. He is also a member of the Meriden Board of Trade, of which organization he is one of the directors.

ELIAS OEFINGER.

Elias Oefinger, manufacturer of tuning pipes, and who conducts the only factory devoted exclusively to that industry in the United States, was born in Germany in the town of Trossingen. In that European town the larger portion of the harmonicas of the world are made. He was educated in the common schools of his native country and early in life learned the trade of a harmonica maker, which he followed for many years. With his brother he came to this city in 1880. In 1900 as a member of the firm of John and Elias Oefinger, he began the manufacture of the patent tuning pipes bearing his name and which have become famous in the musical trade. The tuning pipes were first manufactured in the shop of the Standard Novelty company; but in 1902 the present factory, corner Mechanic and North George streets, was removed to, where two floors are occupied. In 1901 Mr. Oefinger's brother was accidentally killed by the cars at the Center street crossing and his sad death removed from Meriden one of the most energetic and industrious manufacturers within its borders. Since the decease of his brother Mr. Oefinger has carried on the business alone. Through his inventive genius he has made and successfully put upon the market several kinds of tuning pipes, among them a pitch pipe, giving the entire chromatic scale. The pipes made by this manufacturer, 6,000 annually, also comprise those giving the correct pitch for tuning the four strings of the violin or mandolin, five of the banjo and six of the guitar. The product of the factory is sold through the music houses of the country.

Mr. Oefinger, in common with men of his nationality, is a great lover of music and is a talented player of several instruments. He has for some years been a member of the Lyra Singing society of Meriden; also a member of the Meriden Turn Verein and the Workmen's Sick Benefit Association. His industry adds to the business welfare of Meriden and his interest concerning his adopted city has never been in doubt.

WILBUR B. HALL

Wilbur Birdsey Hall, manufacturer of individual peppers and salts, napkin rings and other small articles of electro plate and white metal goods, is of the third generation of a family whose name has for

many years been associated with this typical branch of Meriden industry. Both his father and grandfather were prominent in the business and industrial life of the town. Mr. Hall is a descendant of one of the oldest families in Connecticut and which is traced back to John Hall, who died in Wallingford in 1676, and of whom much is stated elsewhere in these pages Lewis Hall, father of Wilbur B., was for over thirty years superintendent of the Wilcox Silver Plate Co., and as such was connected with that well known concern, now a part of the International Silver Co., until his death in 1900.



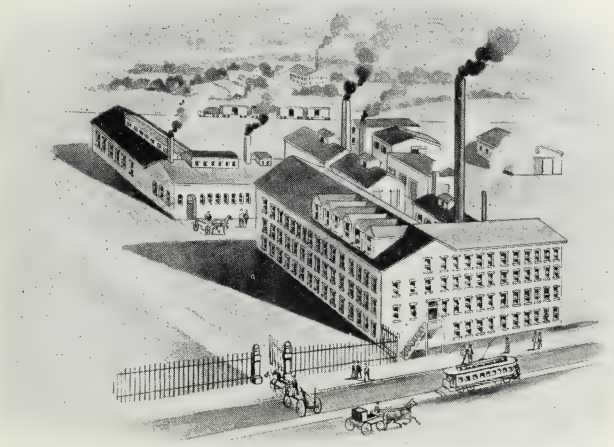
FACTORY OF WILBUR B. HALL.

Wilbur B. Hall learned the mysteries of the silver plated ware industry also in that large factory business on his own account in 1882. Three years later, or in July 1885, his success enabled him to build the factory on Parker Avenue which he has since conducted and in which he has won the distinction of making more of the goods, of which he makes a specialty and for which his factory is justly renowned, than all other factories combined. A and started in the manufacturing portion of the output of this factory is that of special goods bearing the name of large dealers. The factory is well adapted for the work carried on and in 1905 became equipped with its own electric lighting plant. The goods of Mr. Hall's manufacture are sold to the trade direct from the factory and are used all over the world.

F. J. WALLACE.

Frederick J. Wallace, manufacturer of saddlery hardware and horsehair plumes for sleighs, saddle chimes and bridles, occupies the old Chapman Manufacturing Company's plant and employs quite a number of hands. The output of his factory, excepting that of the horsehair plumes, is what is known as an unfinished product, ready adaptation to circumstances, he has established a manufacturing business of the above line, which has grown rapidly, in a few years, to large proportions.

Mr. Wallace, while a native of Massachusetts, has been a resident and engaged in business in Meriden since 1876; and for fifteen years previous to engaging in manufacturing, conducted a retail provision store as a member



FACTORY OF F. J. WALLACE.

and his trade is with the large jobbers and harness manufacturers. As Mr. Wallace was formerly a successful traveling salesman for the old Chapman Manufacturing Company, and Landers, Frary & Clark, when he bought and started up his plant he possessed a wide acquaintance with the trade. Through his knowledge of the wants of his customers and his of the firm of Patten & Wallace when he served one year as president of the Retail Butchers' Association of Connecticut, and was also honored by being elected treasurer of the National Butchers' Association of the United States, which office he held four years.

His plant, located on Britannia street, has a frontage of 135 feet, is 300 feet deep, and also extends along

the tracks of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. for 300 feet. The trade he supplies is of the highest class and his goods are recognized by jobbers and manufacturers in his line as the best made in New England.

Mr. Wallace was married in 1880 to Carrie E. Brooks, of Cheshire, and has one daughter.

THE H. WALES LINES CO.

A town is what its builders make it. The H. Wales Lines Co. certainly has reason to be proud of the part it has taken in the building of Meriden. Starting in 1864 as Perkins & Lines, the firm has expanded with the growth of the town and to-day is one of the largest building concerns in New England. Nearly all of the factories, business blocks, schools, churches and better class of private residences have been erected by them and their permanent character tells of the thorough manner with which this concern does its work.

In 1878 the withdrawal of Mr. Perkins necessitated a change in the business name of the firm and the company became H. Wales Lines & Co., consisting of Mr. Lines and Henry E. Fairchild.

In 1888 the company was incorporated under its present name with H. Wales Lines as president and treasurer, Henry E. Fairchild, vice-president, and Lewis A. Miller, secretary.

The reputation of the firm was widely known and a demand for such a concern existing in other places the company found it to their advantage to accept contracts outside of Meriden. This outside work increased and with it their facilities for handling it. They now execute contracts in any state and are prepared to do any kind of work at any time and in any place.

Architects, engineers and prospective builders found it paid them to employ a firm who could handle any size contract with promptness and the substantial, well-built public buildings, churches, libraries, college buildings, school houses, mercantile blocks, residences, manufacturing plants, etc., that this company has erected in Connecticut and other states are an evidence of this.

The company has in its employ an efficient corps of engineers, draftsmen and other persons trained and experienced, capable of meeting the requirements in a thoroughly practical way of every detail of the building business.

Since its inception the company has dealt at wholesale and retail in building materials and supplies of all kinds. From their organization special attention has been given to this branch and they are now among the largest wholesale dealers in their line in the state.

The growth of the business demanded larger and more convenient quarters than had been previously occupied, so 400 feet of railroad frontage was purchased on State street and the plant erected which is shown in the illustration. The main storehouse is 150 feet long, two stories high, and

forty feet in width. The office is a model of convenience. Extending from the storehouse and connected with it is a brick stable. It is difficult to imagine a more satisfactory place in which to carry on this business. Ample storage room for quickly and cheaply handling materials is a necessary thing to profitably meet the competition in this line of trade. This company has unusual facilities for supplying at the manufacturer's price heavy articles which enter into the construction of a building, such as lumber, steel, cast iron, metal lath, expanded metal and all other materials for reinforced concrete construction, Portland cement, lime, granite, marble, blue stone, hair, mortar colors, patent plastering mortars, plaster of Paris, building brick, fire brick, etc. Being New England agents for vitrified Ohio sewer pipe and flue linings they can furnish the best quality direct from the kilns and carry in Meriden a stock of from fifteen to twenty carloads to fill orders requiring immediate delivery. Every kind of builders' supplies can be furnished promptly and at low prices.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

OFFICE AND PLANT OF THE H. WALES LINES CO.

It is interesting to note that of the prominent buildings illustrated in this book, there are very few which have not been built by the Lines Company.

Some of the most important are: First Congregational church, St. Joseph's church, High school, the plant of the Bradley & Hubbard Mfg. Co., nearly all the buildings of the Meriden Britannia Co., Woolen mill, Wilcox & White Organ Co., Journal Publishing Co., Meriden Morning and the new Town Hall building now in process of erection. Also many of the better class of private residences were built by them.

A few of the buildings erected by them outside of Meriden, are: Residences of J. H. Whittemore at Naugatuck and Middlebury, Conn.; factories



CONNECTICUT BUILDING, ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION, 1904.

Record building, Connecticut Breweries Co., City Mission block, Winthrop hotel, Wilcox block, Palace block, Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Y. M. C. A. building, State School for Boys, Curtis Home, Meriden National Bank, Meriden Savings Bank, Meriden Hospital, Curtis Memorial Library of the United States Rubber Co., Naugatuck; plant of the Excelsior Needle Co., Torrington; chimney stacks and portion of plant of the Coe Brass Co., Torrington; H. L. Judd Co., Wallingford; plant of the Malleable Iron Fittings Co., Branford; National Folding Box & Paper Co., New Haven; part

of Yale & Towne Co.'s plant, Stamford; part of the plant of the Union Metallic Cartridge Co., Bridgeport; Winchester Repeating Arms Co., New Haven; silk mill for Joseph Loth & Co., Norwalk; American Graphophone Co., Bridgeport; Mystic Industrial Co., Mystic.

Salem High school, Naugatuck; Whig & Clio Halls, Princeton University; residence of C. Oliver Iselin, New Rochelle, N. Y.; Centenary Collegiate Institute, Hackettstown, N. J.; Montefiore Home, Bedford, N. Y.; Overton Hall, Moody's School, Mt. Hermon, Mass.; Turner Library, Torrington, Conn.; Skull & Bones and Book & Snake Society Buildings; Ives Cheeney Memorial gateway at Yale University, New Haven; State Normal schools, Willimantic and Danbury; Connecticut House, St. Louis Exposition, 1904; St. Bernard's church, Rockville, Conn.; Connecticut Agricultural college dormitory, Storrs, Conn.; New London City National Bank building, New London, Conn.; offices and car house of the Hartford Street Railway Co., Hartford, Conn.; plants of the Hall Railway Signal Co., and the Aeolian-Weber Piano Co., at Garwood, N. J.; Standard Paint Co., at Bound Brook, N. J.; Fuchs & Lang Mfg. Co., at Rutherford, N. J.; Weber Piano Co., New York City; fourteen power or transformer stations for the United Gas & Improvement Co., of Philadelphia; seven power stations for Westchester Lighting Co., of Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; factory buildings for the Max Ams Machine Co., and the Mauser Mfg. Co., at Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; factory of the Sanborn Map Co., at Pelham, N. Y.

HENRY E. FAIRCHILD.

Henry E. Fairchild, one of the most respected residents of Meriden

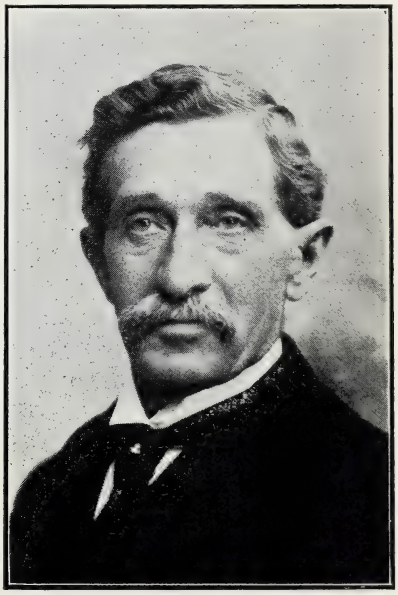


Photo by H. T. Shaw.
H. E. FAIRCHILD.

and who has for forty years been associated with its progress, was born at Woodbridge, Conn. After learning the the trade of a mason in the employ of Smith & Sperry of New Haven, in 1865, he came to Meriden where he continued to work at his trade for the firm of Perkins & Lines. His services

were so valuable that a short time later he was given an interest in the business, and upon the retirement of Mr. Perkins, Mr. Fairchild became Mr. Lines' only partner, the business continuing under the name of H. Wales Lines & Co. When the business was merged into a corporation, Mr. Fairchild became its vice-president, which office he now holds. Many of the principal buildings of Meriden have been constructed under his personal supervision. Mr. Fairchild is a member of Meridian Lodge, 77, A. F. & A. M., and St. Elmo Commandery, 9, K. T.

He has been twice married, first to Mary Elizabeth Clark, and to that union two sons were born: George W., and Frederick L., and through his first marriage Mr. Fairchild has also two grandchildren, Ralph H. and Ralph E. Fairchild. On September 25, 1891 he was again married to Mary Elizabeth Bliss of Springfield, Mass. Mr. Fairchild resides in his own comfortable home on Chestnut street, and is justly known as one of the most loyal citizens of the town.

LEWIS ALBERT MILLER.

Lewis Albert Miller was born in Meriden June 29, 1866, the son of George W. and Lydia M. Miller.

He received his education in the public schools, studying but a short time in the High school.

After working about five months with the late Amos Ives in his coal office, in May, 1883, he entered the employ of H. Wales Lines & Co. He utilized the opportunities offered to learn every detail of the building business so that in 1889 when The H. Wales Lines Co. was incorporated he became a stockholder and was shortly after made secretary of the company, a position he now holds.

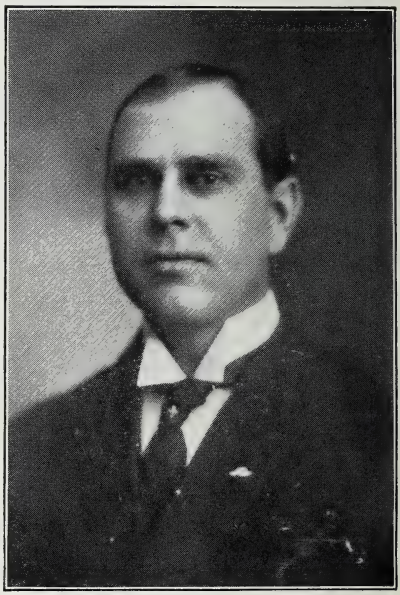


Photo by Akers & Pigeon

L. A. MILLER.

Mr. Miller has been a participant in the great growth of this contracting firm, whose yearly business now exceeds one million dollars and his energetic efforts have contributed in no small part to its expansion.

Mr. Miller is a member of St. Elmo Commandery, K. T.; the Mystic Shrine; Pilgrims' Harbor Council,

Royal Arcanum; also the Home, Colonial and Wheel Clubs of Meriden.

When the old high wheel was in vogue Mr. Miller was prominent in the sport and did considerable amateur racing. He won several championships and held for a short period the amateur records of the world for one mile. He was also a member of the National Racing Board for a few years.

Mr. Miller although always interested in the politics of the city, has held but one office, serving as councilman from the Second ward during the years of 1893 and 1894.

In 1892 he married Lena Sevelia Merriam. Their home is at 68 Wilcox avenue.

HOLT & STEVENS.

Although the present partnership existing between Irving L. Holt and Frank A. Stevens, dates back to March 1, 1892 only, it was in February, 1872, that the business of the Meriden Fire Insurance Agency was begun, the first policy being issued to the late Isaac C. Lewis. This was the beginning of the long and honorably conducted business of the insurance agency, which has since grown to one of the largest in the state. In later years real estate was added and now the firm are extensively engaged in the sale, rental and care of property.

Irving L. Holt, senior member of the present firm and of whom a biographical sketch appears elsewhere in this volume, first became connected with this agency in 1874. Mr. Stevens first came into the office as clerk in 1881.

The firm, who occupy large offices in the Wilcox block, represent the following named insurance companies. Agricultural Company of Watertown, N. Y.; American Company of Newark, N. J.; American Company of Boston, Mass.; American Company of New York; British-American Assurance Company of Toronto, Can.; Capital Company of Concord, N. H.; Continental Company of New York; Fire Association of Philadelphia; Firemen's Company of Newark, N. J.; Firemen's Fund Company of San Francisco, Cal.; Franklin Company of Philadelphia; The German-American Company of New York; Girard Company of Philadelphia; Granite State Company, Portsmouth, N. H.; Greenwich Company of New York; Hamburg-Bremen Company of Germany; Holyoke Mutual Company of Salem, Mass.; London and Lancashire Company of England; Liverpool and London and Globe Company of England; Magdenburg Fire Company of Germany; Manchester Assurance Company of England; Merchants' Company of Newark, N. J.; New London County Mutual of Norwich, Conn.; New York Underwriters' Agency of New York; Niagara Company of New York, Northern Assurance Com-

pany of England; North British Mercantile Company of England; Norwalk Company of Norwalk, Conn.; Phoenix Company of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Royal Company of Liverpool, Eng.; Security Company of New Haven, Conn.; Springfield F. & M. Company of Springfield, Mass.; Western Assurance Company of Toronto, Can.; Westchester Company of New York, and the Fire Company, County of Philadelphia. The following companies are also represented by Holt & Stevens. North Western Life of Milwaukee; the Aetna Life and Accident Companies of Hartford, Conn.; United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company of Baltimore, and the New York Plate Glass Company of New York.

The members of this firm are counted among the more progressive men of Meriden, Mr. Holt being prominent in public life and possessing a creditable career as tax collector, in which capacity he now serves. Frank A. Stevens, although a younger man has proven his value as a resident of the town in many ways. He is the present secretary of the Meriden Board of Trade, which organization has been treated at length in these pages. Both Messrs. Holt and Stevens have demonstrated their local pride also in taking a prominent part in the Centennial celebration, both gentlemen serving on the important Finance Committee.

A. GREENBACKER & SONS.

Adolf Greenbacker, of A. Greenbacker & Sons, born in Steinmauern Baden, Germany, came to this country and to Meriden in 1879. After being employed one year on a farm, he removed to Stonington, Illinois, where he rented a farm which he carried on five years. While there he began married life, and his first two children were born, as follows: Josephine, now Mrs. Fred Hemstead of New Haven, born March 9, 1883, and Joseph, born July 12, 1884. He then took up 240 acres of government land at Wichita, Kan., which he stocked with all farming implements and machinery and improved the land to a high state of cultivation and was succeeding admirably when he found the climate did not agree with him and he returned east. Making his way back to Meriden with his wife and four children, for his second son, Charles, was born at Wichita, Kan., September 3, 1886, and also his son, Robert, November 29, 1889, and reentered the Meriden Britannia Company in 1890 where he remained ten years.

Five years later he selected his permanent residence location on Old Colony road, opposite the Walnut Grove cemetery, and built his house on the lot which then comprised but three acres of land. He afterwards added to the land three acres purchased from Mrs. Cecelia Yale, the adjoining property of thirteen acres, of Mrs. Peck, including two houses; and five acres

of James Hall, all of which land has since been highly cultivated. Still continuing at the Britannia shop, Mr. Greenbacker, with his sons, first started a small milk route and, later, after his son, Joseph, who when he became sixteen years of age, went to Bridgeport where he remained two years, learning the florist business, a greenhouse was built and the florist firm of A. Greenbacker & Sons was formed. Since then the business has grown steadily and rapidly and noticeable enlargements have been made.

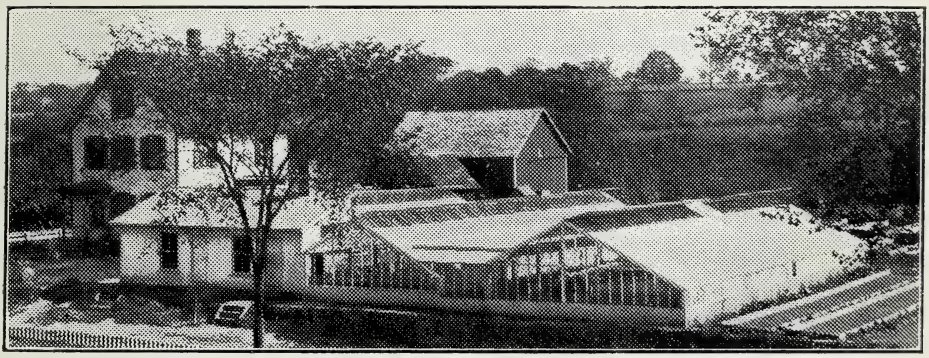


Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

GREENHOUSES OF A. GREENBACKER & SONS.

The firm also grow garden truck and supply to the market much in that line. From the fifteen cows now pastured Mr. Greenbacker conducts a milk route of no small but limited proportions.

Mr. Greenbacker takes pardonable pride in his sons, who are trustworthy, conscientious and industrious young men, and besides the children above mentioned are the following: Rosie, born March 13, 1893, and Annie, born in Meriden, October 27, 1896. Mr. Greenbacker is an active member of the Meriden Grange and of the official board of Trinity M. E. church, of which church the members of his family are active members.

CHURCH & MORSE.

Meriden's leading hardware concern, Church & Morse, whose store is located directly opposite Colony street, in the Palace Block, has been in existence under its present name since 1879, and previous to that, back to 1872, the firm was known as Church & Sprague. The first location occupied was a small store on East Main street, near the railroad crossing, but the business soon outgrew those quarters, and was removed to the present location, where the business has continued to grow and prosper.

This hardware store has always kept abreast of the times and every-

thing, usually found in a general hardware store, it contains. This reputable hardware store extends ninety feet to the rear and has a frontage of about twenty-five feet, and both the main floor and basement are stocked as full with goods as the commodious quarters allow. In addition to this the firm have a two and a half story brick storehouse fifty by eighty-eight feet in dimensions which for several years has been necessary to their business. The firm enjoys an enviable reputation for reliability and does a large business in general hardware, tools, cutlery, builders' hardware, agricultural implements, skates, bicycles, etc.

The reputation of the firm has been built up by treating every customer with the same degree of fairness, making the name of Church & Morse synonymous with honest goods and prices. George A. Church, who was a leading spirit of the firm for many years and was always known as one of the most energetic, able and personally popular men of the town, died September 13, 1896, and since his death his son, Robert G. Church, a young man who inherits much of his father's business ability has taken his place in the store representing the interests of the estate.

Charles P. Morse, who about 1879 bought a half interest in the firm, one year after Mr. Church had purchased the share owned by Mr. Sprague, his first partner, is also known as one of the valued business men of the town. Mr. Morse, like his deceased partner, has ever shown a bona fide regard for the welfare of Meriden, and his long experience as a hardware merchant has made him thoroughly familiar with the wants of the community in his line. He is a member of Meriden Center Lodge, I. O. O. F., the Red Men and Royal Arcanum. The store also furnishes employment for several men who have become useful residents of the community.

THE LAWN HOTEL.

One of the most picturesque situations perhaps of any Connecticut hostelry is taht enjoyed by the Lawn Hotel, with spacious grounds facing Hanover St., adjoining Hanover Park, and possessing a wide water frontage on the lake of that name. The property comprising two acres of land, was originally the family residence of the late J. C. Breckenridge, for many years superintendent of the Meriden Cutlery Company, and was converted into a hotel in 1889 by the late John Cassidy. At a large expense he rebuilt the house which has since been conducted as a hotel, being largely patronized in the summer months, but open all the year round. After achieving a reputation as a hotel man, Mr. Cassidy died in 1897 and since that time the hotel has been conducted by his son, Joseph M. Cassidy, a native of Meriden, who

possesses the desirable qualifications of a successful boniface. The property is leased by him from his mother, Mrs. Mary Cassidy, who became the owner of the land and buildings at her husband's death. The Lawn Hotel is a popular resort for both transient and permanent guests and will be appreciated by patrons during the Centennial week.



Photo by R. S. Godfrey.

THE LAWN HOTEL.

THE BESSE-BOYNTON CO.

As Meriden celebrates her first centennial as an incorporated town, its citizens have reason to feel justly proud of her achievements. While the product of the busy factories have brought fame to the locality of some of her mercantile establishments Meriden has good reason to be proud, per-

haps especially so, of the store of the Besse-Boynton Company, a benefit to the community and an ornament to the town and city since 1902 when it was established.

The store occupies the whole building at 19 Colony street, in the very heart of the business center, and its attractive show windows vie with the interior in point of attractiveness. The building now occupied by them presents itself in more pleasing contrast since transformed from the boarding house for which purpose the building was formerly used. It was at no small expense that the company altered the building which was entirely remodeled. A whole new front was put in and like the whole of the ground floor, extends to what was originally the top of the second story. In order to accomplish this one floor was taken out. The store since being under the present regime also has become possessed not only of pressed steel walls and ceilings of artistic pattern, but elaborate fittings, fixtures and equipments bringing about a most radical change and making the store one of the most attractive in the state and wholly on a par with the other eighteen stores in as many cities now controlled by the Besse system, of which the Besse-Boynton Co. is a part. These stores are as follows: Besse-Boynton Co., Meriden, Conn.; Besse-Mills Co., Holyoke, Mass.; Besse-Rolfe Co., Lynn, Mass.; Besse-Eldridge Co., Manchester, N. H.; Besse-Bryant Co., Worcester, Mass.; Besse-Baker Co., Brockton, Mass.; Besse-Boeker Co., Providence, R. I.; Besse-Richey Co., New Haven, Conn.; Besse-Russell Co., Fall River, Mass.; Besse-Leland Co., New Britain, Conn.; Besse-Carpenter Co., Springfield, Mass.; Besse-Bryant Co., Nashua, N. H.; Besse-Sprague Co., Syracuse, N. Y.; Besse-Fox Co., Bangor, Me.; Besse-Avery Co., Kansas City, Mo.; Bryant-Besse Co., Norwalk, Conn.; Foster-Avery Co., Portland, Me.; Foster-Besse Co., Bridgeport, Conn., and A. L. Foster Co., Hartford, Conn. This system is also associated with the Foster system, comprising twenty-three other stores, all of which have sprung from that established in Bridgeport by Foster-Besse & Co., in 1877, and the mother store has by no means any cause to be ashamed of her healthy offsprings, nor is the Meriden store any exception, for not only is it comely in appearance but the goods and prices are among its drawing qualities. There is a main floor where clothing, hats and men's furnishings are found in large quantities, and infinite variety. In the rear of the store is a balcony reached by an attractive staircase, where the office is located and also a large department containing boys' clothing. The basement is also an important part of this popular trading place for men and boys and there also is a large and most desirable stock of trunks and bags. The store is kept scrupulously neat and clean, and old styles are an unknown quantity there. The large number of clerks kept busy, and the large volume of business done

shows that not only is the store attractive to the buying public, but that the goods meet with favor among the well dressed men and boys of the Silver City and surrounding territory.

The store as first opened was known as Besse-Boeker Co., but February, 1904, was changed to the present style. Mr. Boeker, who had managed the store up to that time, resigned to take charge of another of the Besse system stores at Providence, R. I. The company as now incorporated, consists of L. W. Besse, president and A. E. Boynton, secretary and treasurer, the latter being the resident manager. Mr. Boynton came to Meriden to take charge of the store which now bears his name, after having been associated with the Besse system for a number of years, and having formerly been employed at the Springfield store of the Besse-Carpenter Co. He has attained his present position in the company from the bottom round of the business ladder. Since coming to this city he has fully upheld the ideals of his predecessor, and continued to increase the trade and popularity of the store, and incidentally to make many staunch friends in both local business and social circles. Mr. Boynton resides on Linsley avenue.

AKERS & PIGEON.

Akers & Pigeon, a firm of good repute, engaged in portrait photography at 35½ West Main street, consists of a partnership formed in March 1903, between John Akers and Ernest W. Pigeon. The quarters are admirable for the extensive business carried on in the production of high grade portraiture. The entire second floor of the large double building is occupied and this is provided with a convenient entrance. The studio is one of the largest and handsomest in the state and contains excellent specimens of photography. The establishment is fitted with all the latest and best facilities, including an artisto electric lighting machine used for both printing and making sittings in the absence of sunlight.

The nucleus of the present business was formed in 1894 when Mr. Akers made his debut in the photographic circles of Meriden as a member of the firm of Haley & Akers, the location being in the Hall & Lewis building at the corner of Colony and West Main street, with an entrance at 6 East Main street. The work of his first studio gave Mr. Akers a high standing in his chosen calling, which he has since maintained, and the partnership of Haley & Akers was continued until July, 1899 when it was dissolved. Haley & Akers removed to the present location in September, 1896, the present partnership forming as above stated. On November 1, 1903, Mr. Akers purchased the DeLamater studio at Hartford, which he has since conducted with marked success, catering in the Capitol City to a trade which comprises a most exclusive portion of the population. To the Hartford studio he has ever



JOHN AKERS.

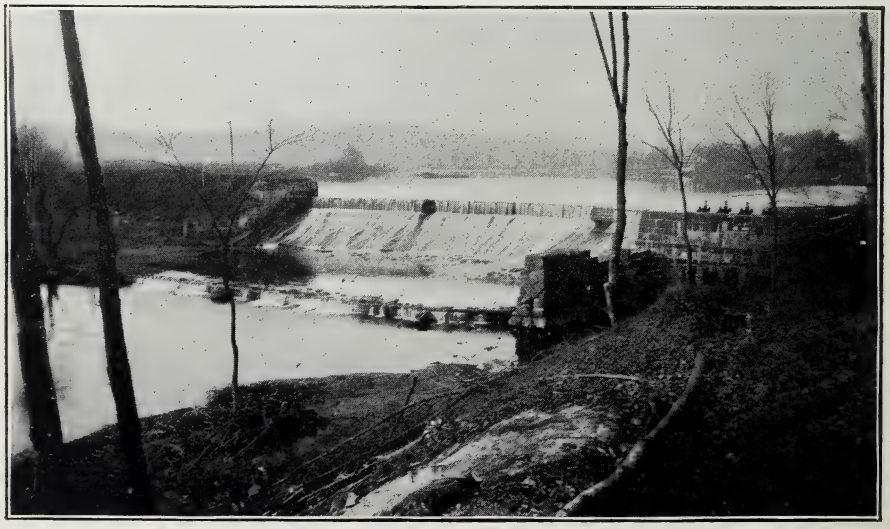


ERNEST W. PIGEON.

since devoted the major portion of his time.

John Akers was born in Philadelphia, November 29, 1868, and has been a resident of Meriden continuously since he took a place in the ranks of the local business men. The work of the studios bearing his name has been such as to reflect credit upon both Meriden and Hartford, and due to his skill as an operator and his extended experience of several years, during which time he has always been a close student of his business. He is a member of Alfred H. Hall Council, 1423, Royal Arcanum. He was married in 1899 to Bessie, a daughter of Winfield R. Coe, a representative of one of the oldest and best known families

Ernest W. Pigeon was born in Meriden in 1880 and was educated in the public schools. After taking a three years' course in the Meriden High school, he entered the studio of Haley & Akers in 1898 and has been associated with Mr. Akers ever since. He proved himself an apt scholar, and being possessed of a natural talent his advancement has been rapid. Since 1903 he has been in charge of the studio of which he is now also a part owner. He is a member of Meriden Lodge, 35, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and like Mr. Akers is known as one of the younger progressive business men of the town. In May, 1906, he made a tour abroad.



FALLS AT HANOVER LAKE.

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